Mercer Funeral Home

Edward "Eddie" N. Hinkle

(August 15, 1928 - September 14, 2025)

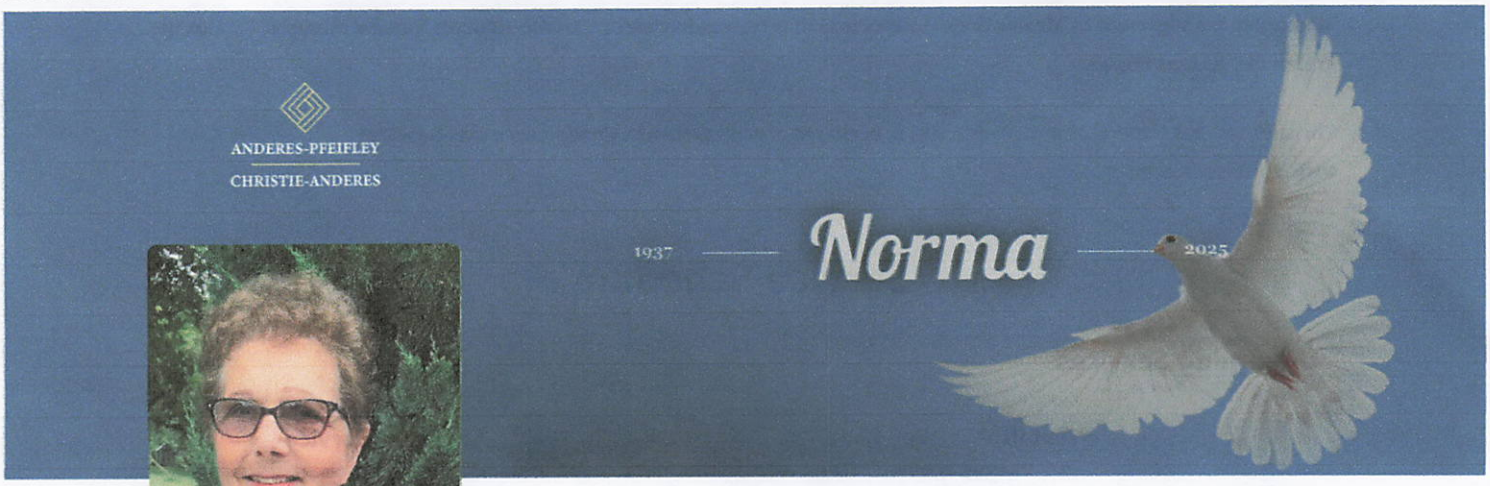
Edward (Eddie) Newlin Hinkle, 97, of Foreman, AR, passed away September 14, 2025, at St. Michaels Hospital in Texarkana, TX. Born August 15, 1928, in Powhattan, KS, son of George Blane and Della Faye (Newlin) Hinkle.

Eddie graduated from Wetmore High School in 1946. He proudly served in the United States Air Force. He worked for Mobil Pipeline Company, the last three years of his employment were spent working in Saudia Arabia before taking an early retirement at the age of 55. Eddie was a member of the American Legion Post #282 in Wetmore, KS and recently joined the American Legion Post #488 in New Boston, TX. Eddie was a tinkerer of all things, avid fisherman, and traveler of the world. He was known as Papa not only to his grandkids and great grandkids, but by many friends and family.

Eddie was married to Georgia Jean Tolliver on December 29, 1951. She preceded him in death on September 9, 2024, after 72 years of marriage. Eddie is also preceded in death by his parents, Blane & Della Hinkle, one son Monty Lee Hinkle, one daughter Diana Lynn Hinkle Gary, two brothers Jewel Hinkle and Merrill Hinkle, and one granddaughter Stephanie Ann Sigle.

Left to cherish Eddie's memory is his daughter Cindy and husband Gary Sigle of Foreman, AR, and one sister Laura Autrey of Topeka, KS. Two grandchildren Lacy and husband Tyler Cranor of Foreman, AR and Scott and wife Kristy Sigle of Texarkana, AR. Three great grandchildren, Cooper (12) and Stella (9) McElhannon and Henry Sigle (3). Along with several nieces and nephews.

Graveside Inurnment will be 11:00 a.m. Saturday, October 11, 2025 at the Wetmore Cemetery. Mercer Funeral Home in Holton is in charge of local arrangements.



Norma Hirt

March 29, 1937 — September 19, 2025
Waterville, Kansas

Norma Jean Hirt, age 88, of Waterville, passed away at her home on Friday, September 19, 2025.

Norma was born on March 29, 1937 in Wetmore, Kansas to Lawrence W. and Melinda B. (Hasenkamp) Lierz, and was one of ten children.

After moving to Marysville to work as a nanny and waitress, Norma married Franklin D. Frerking on December 30, 1957 and they had two children, Shari and Ann. Norma later worked in the Marysville High School cafeteria and retired after 30 years of service.

Norma was predeceased by Frank on September 10, 1985. She married two more times. On June 19, 1987, she married Charlie A. Roepke, who passed away in 2006. On August 17, 2007, she married Donald N. Hirt, who passed away in 2019.

Also preceding Norma in death were seven siblings: brothers Leonard, Leroy, Larry Jr , Walt and Robert Lierz, and sisters Gerri Bramlage and Wilma Ross.

Survivors include her two daughters, Shari Poole of Waterville and Ann (Jess) Gehin of Idaho Falls, Idaho; two sisters, Alberta (Larry) Tanking and Shirley (Orville) Hutfles, both of Holton; two grandsons, Spencer Gehin of Idaho Falls and Devin Poole of Knoxville.

Norma was a member of the Catholic Church, where she served in the Altar Society, but also attended the United Methodist Church and St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Waterville. She was a member of the Waterville Lions Club, Shakespeare Club and the American Legion Auxiliary in Waterville.

A visitation will be held on Thursday, October 2, 2025, between 6:00 and 8:00 pm, at Christie-Anderes Funeral Home in Waterville.

A memorial service will be held at 11:00 am, Friday, October 3, 2025, at St. Mark Lutheran Church in Waterville with Pastor David Thompson officiating. Honorary Bearers are: Mary Jane Cohorst, Robert Cohorst, Joseph Bramlage and Barbara McClain. The inurnment will be at Marysville City Cemetery.

Memorials are suggested to Meadowlark Hospice and may be sent in care of Christie-Anderes Funeral Home at PO Box 61, Waterville, Kansas 66548.

Christie-Anderes Funeral Home, Waterville, is in charge of arrangements. Condolences may be left at www.apfunerals.com.

Service Schedule

Upcoming Services

Visitation

Thursday, October 2, 2025
6:00 - 8:00 pm (Central time)
Add to Calendar

Christie-Anderes Funeral Home
308 West Walnut Street,
Waterville, KS 66548

Memorial Service

Friday, October 3, 2025
Starts at 11:00 am (Central time)
Add to Calendar

St Mark's Lutheran Church
204 N Nebraska Ave, Waterville,
KS 66548

Inurnment

Marysville City Cemetery
1401 N. 16th Street, Marysville,
KS 66508

Chapel Oaks Funeral Home Hoyt

Ronald Moore

(April 29, 1949 - September 22, 2025)

Ronald "Little Mo" Moore, 76, passed away peacefully at his home in Delia, KS on Monday, September 22, 2025 under the loving care of a team of angels from St. Croix Hospice. Nurses Kirstie, Tracy and Chrissy, after a decades long battle with PAD.

Ron was born in Oswego, Kansas on April 29, 1949, the son of Albert and Oleta Campbell Moore. Originally from Arkansas, the family of four brothers and one sister put down their roots in Hoyt, Kansas. Here Ron attended Hoyt High School, where he met and married Cathy Fuller, with whom he had two ornery daughters.

Ron worked for the railroad, then Goodyear, then owned a gas station in Hoyt with his brother Rick. He eventually hired on with KPL as a journeyman mechanic at Jeffrey Energy Center. He retired in 2010. Here he met his devoted partner in crime, Eileen Jackson. They were married on November 1, 1992.

Ron is survived by his wife, Eileen, Delia, daughters, Rhonda Moore and Jeni Baxter (Tim), all of Holton, grandchildren, Chris Nocktonick (Rachel), Hoyt, Haley Ramsay (Zak), Aubrey, TX, Tana Olberding (Kyle), Seneca, Katlyn Ensley (Matthew), Mayetta, and TJ Martin, Mayetta, great grandchildren, Lakelyn, Maisyn, Harper, twins Nixon and Kash, and Keaton, his siblings, Roger Moore (Kathy), Independence, MO, Rick Moore (Barb), Topeka, Mary Neil (Rod), Ozawkie, and many nieces and nephews who all held a special place in Uncle Ronnie's heart.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, September 29th at the Chapel Oaks Funeral Home in Hoyt, led by a very special niece, Deedra Neil. We welcome any special memories or thoughts, either oral or written, if you wish to share. Dress will be casual, with Chiefs attire, as Ron was an avid fan. A visitation will be from 10:30 until service time. It was Ron's wish to be cremated with a private family water burial at a later date. Memorials are suggested to his Great Grandchildren's Education Fund, payable to Edward Jones, and may be sent in care of the funeral home, PO Box 280, Hoyt, KS 66440.

Mercer Funeral Home

Linda L. Wenger

(November 2, 1951 - September 15, 2025)

Linda Lee (Patterson) Wenger, 73, of Wetmore, KS, passed away Monday, September 15, 2025 at her home. She was born November 2, 1951 in Horton, KS, the daughter of Joe W. and Alice M. (Poos) Patterson.

Linda graduated from Whiting High School in 1969 and attended a couple years at Vo-Tech.

She was a Data Entry Clerk for Yellow Freightliner for many years and had also worked as a cook at Aldersgate Village in Topeka and Prairie Band Potawatomi Casino in Mayetta.

Linda enjoyed crafting, decorating, cooking (especially Christmas candy with her family) and local card clubs.

Survivors include her daughters, Jennifer J. Dennon of Lawrence, KS and Jannelle L. Welliver (Rick) of Wetmore, KS; 2 sisters, Nancy J. Bower (Don) of Topeka, KS and Sherry A. Burns (Rick) of Holton, KS; brother, Steve Patterson (Donna) of Holton, KS; 5 grandchildren, Josh Wenger (Alysha), Jessica Swart (Isaac), Sami Dennon (Jakob Katzenburg), Bryce Denton and Taylor Welliver and 7 great-grandchildren, Norah, Joe, Tucker, Henry, Waylon, Ellynn and "one on the way".

She was preceded in death by her parents, Joe and Alice Patterson and a sister, Marsha E. Abarr.

Family will greet friends from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Friday, September 19, 2025 at the Mercer Funeral Home in Holton. Private Family Inurnment will be at Holton Cemetery. Memorials may be given to the Redneck Games- Wetmore c/o Mercer Funeral Home, P.O. Box 270, Holton, KS 66436.

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Midwest Cremation

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Official Obituary of

Daniel William Willcoxon

December 17, 1963 - September 11, 2025

Share a memory

Obituary & Events

Tribute Wall

NM connection ?

2 New Posts

2 Trees or Condolences have

Daniel William Willcoxon Obituary

Daniel William Willcoxon passed away on September 11, 2025 after a prolonged illness.

He was born December 17, 1963 to William A. (Bill) and Margaret (Mickie) M. Willcoxon

Known as Dan or Danny to his friends and family, he attended Spearville High School a ner in 2005 (they divorced) and had their son Aaron Willcoxon.

Dan was a machinist and welder. He loved anything with an engine in it and spent many y in teaching his son how to play pool and the hours they spent together.

Dan was preceded in death by his parents. His survivors include his sons Aaron Willcoxo Rick) and Anne Willcoxon, his nephews and nieces.

As we say farewell to Dan, we celebrate the life he lived filled with humor and intelligence. Dan would like nothing better than his friends and family to raise a glass in his honor.

Graveside services will be held at a later date.

To plant a beautiful memorial tree in memory of Daniel , please visit our Tree Store.

Hide

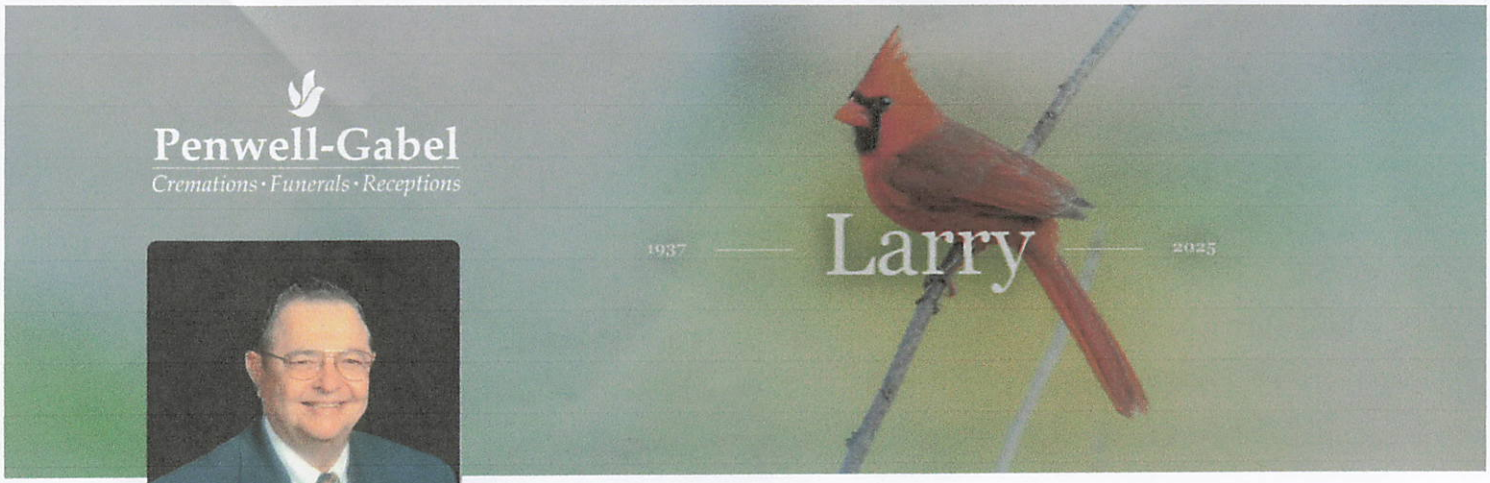
Events

There are no events scheduled at this time. You can still show your support by planting a tree in memory of Daniel William Willcoxon.

Plant a tree in memory of Daniel

Share a memory

Plant a Tree



Larry Edward Ehrsam

June 16, 1937 — September 23, 2025
Topeka

Listen to Obituary

Larry Edward Ehrsam, born on June 16, 1937, in Pawnee City, Nebraska, departed this life on September 23, 2025, in Topeka, Kansas, surrounded by the love of his wife.

He graduated from Bern High School and furthered his education at Clark's School of Business, laying a strong foundation for his professional life. Larry dedicated 43 years of his life to the Santa Fe Railroad, serving as a Counting Clerk, which reflected his diligence and dedication throughout his career.

A proud and active community member, Larry found joy in numerous affiliations. He cherished his long-standing connection with Grace United Methodist Church, Santa Fe BNSF Retiree Group, and the Shawnee County Landlords' Guild. His penchant for camaraderie was evident in his involvement with the Prime Timers and his esteemed membership in the Masonic Lodge and Scottish Rites for over 50 years.

Larry was a man of simple pleasures, deeply enamored with his family, who was central to his life. He took immense joy in nurturing his garden, passionately cultivating flowers that bloomed as vibrantly as his heart. Larry loved to travel, with Hawaii holding a special place in his memories. Larry enjoyed attending community concerts and different theater shows with his family.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Evelyn Ehrsam; daughter, Kate (Jeff) Roades; son, Ken (Lori) Ehrsam; grandchildren, Courtney (Eric) Morris, Rachel Roades, Jamie Ehrsam, and Joey Ehrsam; as well as his great-grandchild, Caysen Morris and one great-grandson on the way, all of whom he cherished. Larry was preceded in death by his father, Edward Ehrsam; mother, Mabel Ehrsam; and sister, Erma Baugh.

The void he leaves behind will be felt profoundly, but his spirit will persist through the countless memories shared among family and friends.

Family and friends may gather to honor Larry's life during visitation on September 29, 2025, from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM at Penwell-Gabel Funeral Home in Topeka. A funeral service will be held at Grace United Methodist Church on September 30, 2025, starting at 10:00 AM, with a graveside service concluding at Mount Hope Cemetery. In his honor, memorial contributions can be made to Grace United Methodist Church, 2627 SW Western, Topeka, KS 66611.

Mercer Funeral Home

Bruce Fund

(March 13, 1965 - September 24, 2025)

Bruce Fund, 60, of Wetmore, KS, passed away Wednesday, September 24, 2025 at KU Medical Center with family by his side.

He was born March 13, 1965 in Seneca, KS the son of Larry and Betty Jane (Cooper) Fund.

Bruce graduated from Wetmore High School in 1983.

He was a Heavy Equipment Operator for Wildcat Construction; built houses with B&L Construction; pole barns all over NE Kansas with Tony Edwards and bridges for Claycamp Construction. Bruce poured a lot of concrete in his lifetime including driveways and on farms, working all over Topeka, Lawrence and NE Kansas. His most recent, and loved job, was working with the Bloom family – but he was a jack of all trades and loved fishing, hunting, barbequing hogs, teaching all the young brats "life skills", and being the neighborhood "Uncle Boo".

Bruce was a member of ABATE District 11; a charter member of the Chopper City Crew and a "founding member" of the Wetmore Men's Club.

Bruce married Martha Fund on July 26, 1997 in Whiting, KS.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Larry and Betty Fund and a son Justin Wommack.

Survivors include his wife Martha Fund of Wetmore, KS; three sons, Dylan James Fund, Goff, KS, Kenneth R. Hoelscher, Claremore, OK and Jeremy W. Hoelscher, Auroa, CO; one daughter Desiree L. Fund, Lansing, MI; two brothers, Brad Fund (Sarah), Wetmore, KS and Bryan Fund (Mikayla), Topeka, KS; and six grandchildren.

Bruce will lie in state Sunday, September 28, 2025 from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Mercer Funeral Home in Holton. Funeral Services will be 3:00 p.m. Monday, September 29, 2025 at Wetmore High School, Wetmore, KS. Family will greet friends one hour prior to service time. Memorials may be given to the Redneck Games – Wetmore c/o Mercer Funeral Home, P.O. Box 270, Holton, KS 66436

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BETSY JO PARADIES (ACHTEN)

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Betsy Jo Paradies (Achten) of Lawrence, KS, loving wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt, and friend, passed away December 22, 2024, at The University of Kansas Medical Center in Kansas City, KS. She was surrounded by those she loved most, her family, at the time she passed.

Betsy was born July 18, 1959, in Sabetha, KS, the daughter of Robert and Alice "Toni" (Marson) Achten. She married Jay Paradies on February 21, 1981, in Topeka, KS. Together they had two children, Rachel (William) Byrn and Christopher (Mariah Whitmore) Paradies. All survive.

Other survivors include her brother, Curtis (Christina) Achten, sister, Melanie Manry, six grandchildren, Cali (Dominic Visentin) Byrn, Ryan Byrn, Kaydee Byrn, Kendall Byrn, Theadora Paradies, and Graham Paradies, and numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, and in-laws.

Betsy was preceded in death by her parents.

Betsy loved to garden, grew her own herbs and vegetables, and made the best brisket you've ever had. She retired in July from Hallmark Cards after 45 years. She saw the best in everyone and every situation, was an avid sports fan, and hosted every holiday dinner. Above all, she loved her family, attending every concert, school music program, and game for her children and grandchildren.

Memorial services will be held Saturday, March 29th at First Christian Church, 1000 Kentucky St. Lawrence, KS 66044 at 11:00am. The family asks guests to wear their favorite Jayhawk, Chiefs, or St. Louis Cardinals gear, Betsy's favorite teams.

Memorial contributions may be made in Betsy's name to Midwest Transplant Network and may be sent in care of Warren-McElwain Mortuary, 120 W. 13th Street, Lawrence, KS 66044.

44 Condolences

Rod and Diana Pringle

Jay and Family, so sorry to hear this. The world lost a good person

Shannon Rumford

Betsy was an amazing person with the best personality. She was so feisty. I loved talking with her when I worked at Hallmark. I'm so sorry for your loss. She was truly the best💝

Scott Jameson

To Jay & Family, My Deepest Condolences, so sorry for your loss.

Jolene & Bobbie Brown

To Jay and family Betsey will definitely be missed. She was a "one of a kind" and loved working with her. She could brighten a gloomy day and make the sun shine. We're so sorry to hear about this. May she peacefully rest.

Mike and Claudia Jones

Jay and family we were saddened to hear of Betsy's passing. She was such an awesome lady and will be greatly missed.

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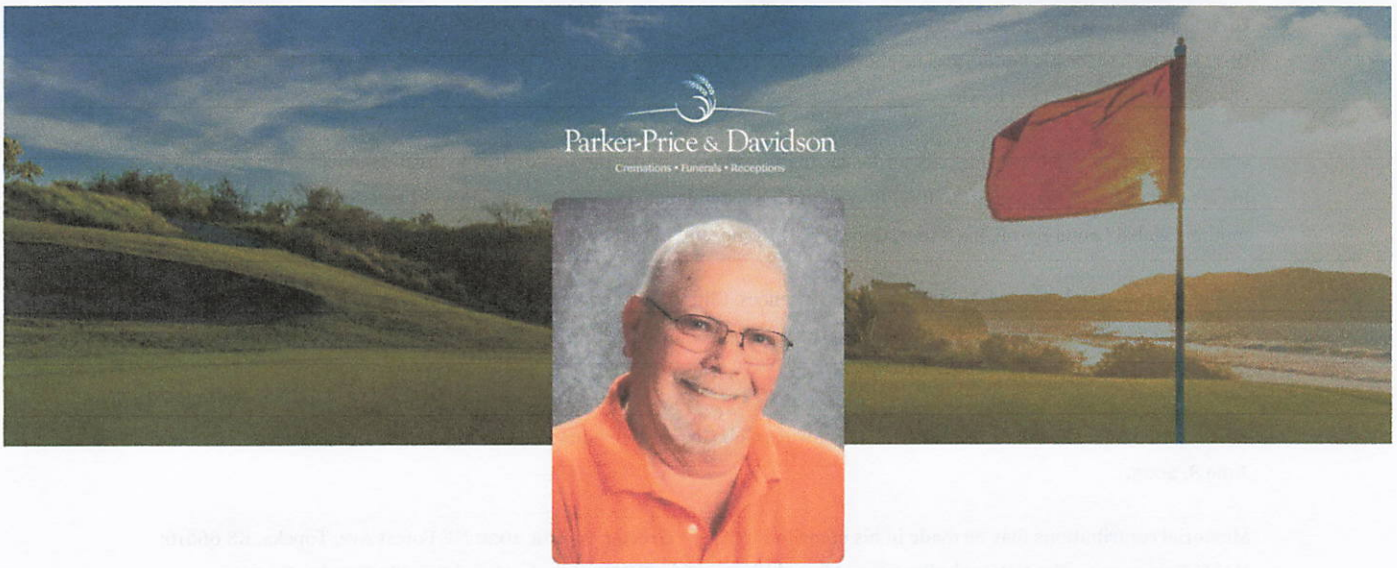


Clifford Lynn Byrne

August 9, 1947 — April 5, 2025
Topeka

Clifford Lynn Byrne, a beloved life partner, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, and friend, was called to eternal rest on April 5, 2025, in Topeka, Kansas, at the age of 77. Born on August 9, 1947, Clifford led a life filled with joy, laughter, and a remarkable ability to connect with others.

Having graduated from Centralia High School in 1965, Clifford ventured into the world with a spirit of adventure, enlisting in the US Navy right after completing school.

For many years, he worked diligently for the Department of Transportation in surveying, retiring in the early 2003. Throughout his career, he displayed an unparalleled dedication to his work, earning the respect of colleagues and friends alike.

Known for his ornery yet outgoing personality, Clifford never met a stranger. He had a remarkable ability to get along with everyone he crossed paths with, creating bonds that lasted a lifetime. It was said that he never had an enemy, leaving behind a legacy of kindness and warmth. His presence brightened every family gathering, holiday celebration, and casual outing with friends.

Clifford found immense joy on the golf course, where he cherished countless golf trips with his friends. Whether it was enjoying a friendly round of golf or sharing stories over a game of bowling, his laughter and infectious spirit filled the air. He also had a fondness for making unforgettable memories at the casino, always surrounded by laughter and good company.

Family was the cornerstone of Clifford's life. He shared more than 20 wonderful years with his partner, Becky Babcock, and was a proud father to three sons: Christopher (Melinda) Byrne, Eric (Haven) Byrne, and Brandon (Irene) Byrne. He was also a careful listener and guiding hand to his daughter, Kelly (Brian) Glendinning. As a grandfather, Clifford's heart swelled with pride for Dalton Byrne, Dillon Byrne, Gaje Byrne, Arianna Torrez, Angelo Torrez, Ashton Ketterman, Karly Byrne, Brody Byrne, Isabella Byrne, Braden Byrne, Jacob Glendinning, Luke Glendinning, Kaleb Glendinning, and Ben

Glendinning, as well as great-grandchildren Kaelynn Keeling and Kenzo Keeling. Each interaction was a testament to the deep love he had for his family, and he cherished every moment spent together, particularly family get-togethers and the cherished tradition of chili bowls.

Clifford is survived by his loving partner Becky, his adoring children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, as well as his brothers Gary Byrne and Stan (Kay) Byrne, and his sister Janet (David) Dunbar. He was preceded in death by his mother, Mabel Leona Byrne, his father, George Earl Byrne, and his sister-in-law, Judy Byrne.

In a life that was rich with relationships and experiences, Clifford's outgoing nature and vibrant spirit will be profoundly missed but fondly remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing him. He leaves behind a legacy of love, laughter, and endless fond memories — a true testament to a life well-lived.

A Celebration of his Life will be held at Lake Shawnee Golf Course club house from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 8, 2025.

Memorial contributions may be made in his name to First Tee - Greater Topeka, 1020 NE Forest Ave, Topeka, KS 66616; NAMI Kansas or to The National Alliance on Mental Illness, 1801 SW Wanamaker Road Box 164 Topeka, KS 66604.

To leave a message for his family online, please utilize the guestbook below.

Service Schedule

Upcoming Services

Celebration of Life

Sunday, June 8, 2025
1:00 - 5:00 pm (Central time)

Lake Shawnee Golf Course club house
4141 Southeast East Edge Road, Topeka, KS 66609

Mercer Funeral Home

Dorothy M. Cox

(October 30, 1934 - April 24, 2025)

Dorothy Marie Cox, 90, of Holton, KS, passed away Thursday, April 24, 2025 at Lawrence Presbyterian Manor in Lawrence, KS. She was born in 1934 in rural Shawnee County, KS, the daughter of John Harvey and MaryAnna Johanna (Hoefler) Basel.

Dorothy attended Wetmore and Corning high schools. She later earned her GED and attended a semester at Highland Community College. She worked for Slimaker Dress Factory and the Jackson County Appraisers Office in 1970 until retiring in 1986.

She was a member of the First Presbyterian Church; serving as Secretary from 1963 – 1971, Deacon and Choir member. She was also a life member of Holton V.F.W. Post 1367 Auxiliary.

Dorothy married Richard Lee Cox on July 14, 1951 in Holton, KS. He preceded her in death on November 17, 2011, after 60 years of marriage. She was also preceded in death by 2 sisters, Mae Elizabeth Basel and Rovida Colton and 6 brothers, John, Jr., Anthony, Daniel, Arthur, Charles and Roy Basel.

Survivors include her 4 children, Bruce Cox (Paula) of Topeka, KS, William Cox (Kathy) of Lawrence, KS, David Cox (Teuka) of Topeka, KS and Deborah D'Orvilliers (Sheldon Pokorney) of Lawrence, KS; 2 sisters, Lousie A. Bickford of Holton, KS and Evelyn Vincent (Bob) of Lyndon, KS; 3 brothers, George Basel of Abilene, KS, Harlan Basel of Gainesville, FL and Walt Basel (Nancy) of Lincoln, NE; 3 sisters-in-law, Evah Basel of DeSoto, KS, Dorothy Basel of Holton, KS and Marceil Basel of Arizona; 15 grandchildren; 25 great- grandchildren and 5 great-great-grandchildren.

Funeral Service will be 1:00 p.m. Tuesday, April 29, 2025 at the Mercer Funeral Home in Holton. Burial will follow at the Holton Cemetery. Family will greet friends from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. Monday evening at the funeral home. Dorothy will lie in state from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Sunday. Memorials may be given to the Holton V.F.W. Post 1367 Auxiliary or American Cancer Society c/o Mercer Funeral Home, P.O. Box 270, Holton, KS 66436.

ORDER KEEPSAKE

Chapel Oaks Funeral Home Holton

Elizabeth Jane "Betty" Fuqua

(February 22, 1930 - March 14, 2025)

MAYETTA – Elizabeth Jane "Betty" Fuqua, 95, of Mayetta, passed away on Friday, March 14, 2025 at her home surrounded by her family.

She was born February 22, 1930 at St. Benedict, the daughter of John and Merwina Levings Martin. She was the fourth oldest of nine children. She graduated from Public High School in Seneca, and from Washburn University in Topeka.

She married Jack Fuqua on October 15, 1953 at Assumption Church in Topeka. They were blessed with 68 ½ years of marriage. He preceded her in death on April 19, 2022.

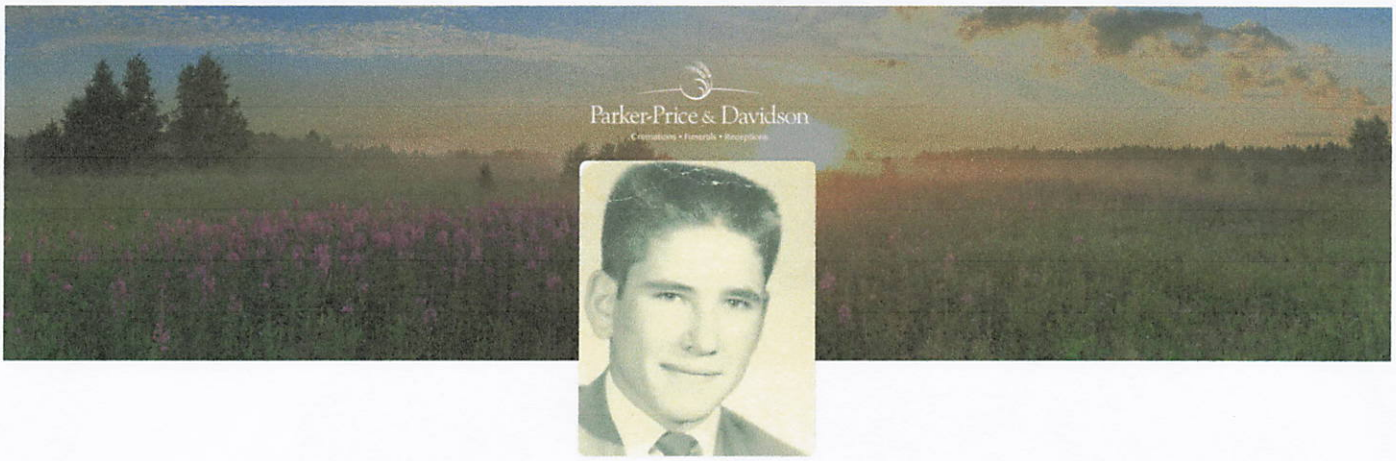
Betty was a member of St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Mayetta, and a member and Past President of the Altar Society at the church.

Betty taught at different schools for eight years, including schools at Silver Lake and Dwight, KS, and at Assumption Catholic School in Topeka. She had also taught all eight grades in a one room school house. She worked at Luce Press Clipping Bureau for 3 ½ years and operated a daycare from her home for fourteen years.

Betty was also preceded in death by her parents, a son, Steve Fuqua, a daughter, Janie Teetzel, a great granddaughter, Abella Rose Teetzel, a son-in-law, who she loved as a son, Floyd Teetzel, and siblings, Charlotte Jones, Rosemary Passino, Jim Martin, twins Leo and Leroy Martin, Chuck Martin and Anne Whitesell.

Survivors include two sons, Van Fuqua and George Fuqua, both of Mayetta, four daughters, Debbie Albright (Steve), Mayetta, Mary DeVader (Doug), Holton, Kim Fuqua (Lenny Riley), Mayetta and Michelle Auten, Topeka, a sister, Patricia Taylor, Wichita, twenty-three grandchildren, twenty-five great grandchildren and four great-great grandchildren.

Mass of Christian Burial will be 12:00 Noon on Thursday, March 20th at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church in Mayetta. Burial will follow in the Mayetta Cemetery. Betty will lie in state after 9:00 a.m. Wednesday at the Chapel Oaks Funeral Home in Hoyt, where a Rosary will be prayed at 6:00 p.m., followed by visitation until 8:00 p.m. Memorials are suggested to the American Diabetes Association, and may be sent in care of the funeral home, PO Box 280, Hoyt, KS 66440.



1938 — Carol — 2025

Carol E. Fritch

August 31, 1938 — March 21, 2025
Topeka

Carol E. Fritch, a devoted family man and cherished member of the Topeka community, passed away on March 21, 2025, at the age of 86, in Kansas City, Kansas, surrounded by his beloved family. Born on August 31, 1938, in Centralia, Kansas, Carol was the son of Levi William Fritch and Annabelle L. (Kolb) Fritch. He graduated from Centralia High School, embarking on a fulfilling career that would see him dedicate over 30 years to Goodyear, where he retired as an electrician.

Carol was recognized not only for his technical skills but also for his vibrant personality. Those who knew him would describe him as ornery, stubborn, kind, and giving. He was a pillar of his family, whose love and strength bore witness through the generations.

An avid fisherman, Carol found joy in the tranquility of nature and relished the peaceful moments spent outdoors. He cherished traveling with his wife, Delores, and their journey included adventures with his siblings. The couple was married on April 14, 1956, and their bond endured until Delores's passing on February 22, 2022.

Family was at the core of Carol's life, and he took great pleasure in spending time with his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Together, they created countless cherished memories, and Carol's legacy lives on through them. He enjoyed making intricate knickknacks, treasure hunting with his metal detector, and spending his days in his lawn chair, searching for good walking sticks.

Carol is survived by his sons Dennis (Jacque), Derry (Andra), and Michael Fritch; his daughter Marsha (Todd) Gall; grandchildren Lindsay (Jermaine) Smith, Sydney (Preston) Kilgore, Desiree (Joe) Perry, William, Lane, and Faith Fritch; and great-grandchildren Kaden and Rhyian Smith, Braedyn Schultz, Conner Perry, Zander Smith, Hadley Kilgore, Carter Perry, and Grahm Kilgore.

He is also mourned by his brother Bob (Sharon) Fritch.

In addition to his beloved family, Carol is preceded in death by his cherished wife Delores, son Doug Fritch and grandson Nicholas Fritch, and siblings Marvin, Bill, Vernon, Eldon Fritch, as well as sisters Millie Mooney, Betty Bomaster, Wilma Mayer, and Erma Stalcup.

A gathering to honor Carol's life will take place on March 28, 2025, from 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM at the Parker-Price & Davidson Reception Center, located at 1940 NW Central Ave, Topeka, Kansas.

Years may pass, but Carol E. Fritch's kindness, dedication to family, and adventurous spirit will be forever remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

In honor of Carol, please continue random acts of kindness to those around you.

Mercer Funeral Home

Norma Jean Farmer

(July 20, 1934 - December 19, 2021)

Norma Jean Farmer, 87, of Holton, KS, passed away, Sunday, December 19, 2021 at The Pines in Holton. She was born July 20, 1934 in Seneca, KS, the daughter of Ernest and Gladys Irene (Spicher) Hundley.

Norma graduated from Holton High School in 1952. She worked at Sears in Topeka for 4 years, Stephenson's Gift Shop and BMB both in Holton and was an Assistant Post Master in Circleville. Norma was mostly a homemaker.

She was a former member of the Christian Church in Circleville and presently a member of the First Christian Church in Holton.

Norma married Kenneth LeRoy Farmer on November 26, 1953 in Holton. They recently celebrated their 68th wedding anniversary.

Survivors include her husband, Kenneth of the home; daughter, Kathy Laird (Mike) of Topeka, KS; son, Michael Farmer (Kendra) of Southlake, TX; sister, Virginia Merwin of Oklahoma and 5 grandchildren, Travis Rieschick (Ashley), Jordan Farmer (Carolyn), Bailey Custable (Anthony), Aaron Rieschick (Samantha) and Keaton Farmer.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Ernest and Gladys Hundley and 4 brothers, William, Jerry, Stanley and Duane Hundley.

Funeral Service will be 10:30 a.m. Thursday, December 23, 2021 at the Mercer Funeral Home in Holton. Burial will follow at the Holton Cemetery. Norma will lie in state Tuesday, December 21, 2021 and Wednesday, December 22, 2021 from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Memorials may be given to the Holton Community Hospital Hospice c/o Mercer Funeral Home, P.O. Box 270, Holton, KS 66436.

Chapel Oaks Funeral Home Holton

William D. "Bill" Hards

(July 13, 1948 - April 9, 2025)

William D. "Bill" Hards, 76, of Denison, passed away on Wednesday, April 9, 2025 at the Stormont-Vail Hospital in Topeka.

He was born July 13, 1948, at Horton, the son of Raymond and Twila Long Hards. He graduated from Goff High School in 1966. Bill was a Vietnam veteran, having served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1967 to 1971.

He had worked in road construction for Koss Construction and helped build Highway 75. He also worked at Oldham's, drove grain trucks for area farmers, and retired from the Jefferson County Road and Bridge Department. After retirement he did a variety of odd jobs.

He was a member of Holton V.F.W. Post 1367.

Bill married Alice Wessel on May 6, 1972. They had four children and later divorced. He married Patricia Eichelberger in 1999. They were divorced.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a sister, Opal Carver, and a brother, Arthur "Art" Hards.

Survivors include his life partner of 22 years, Linda Mooney, of the home, four daughters, Angela Cameron (Jason), Quenemo, Melissa Stephens, in Georgia, Miranda Gallegos (Gabe), Lawton, OK, and Ashley Dorr (Scott), Lyndon, a step-daughter, Lori Murnan (Rick), Overland Park, a step-son, Jason Nudson (Trina), DeSoto, two brothers, Ronald Hards (Carol), Holton and Gary Hards (Marie), Denison, twenty-five grandchildren and ten great grandchildren.

Funeral services will be Monday, April 14th at 10:00 a.m. at the Chapel Oaks Funeral Home in Holton. Visitation will be from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. Monday prior to the service. Burial with military honors will follow the service in the Mayetta Cemetery. Bill will lie in state on Sunday from Noon until 6:00 p.m.at the funeral home. Memorials are suggested to the Holton Veterans Club, and may be sent in care of the funeral home, PO Box 1034, Holton, KS 66436.

Official Obituary of

James Frederick Labbe

August 6, 1944 - March 12, 2025

Share a memory

Obituary & Events Tribute Wall

James Frederick Labbe Obituary

James Frederick Labbe, Onaga, Kansas, died March 12, 2025, surrounded by family.

He was born on August 6, 1944, at the Nemaha County farm he called home his entire life, to Clifford and Marjorie (Ewing) Labbe.

His love of farming was nurtured by his father and grandfather as they worked together to maintain a self-sufficient lifestyle. Except for a brief stint in the early 1970's when he owned and operated Sportsman's Tavern on Main Street, Onaga, he enjoyed the honorable calling of Farmer all his life. The animals in his care, whether hogs, cattle, chickens, turkey, squirrels, orioles, hummingbirds, cats, or treasured dogs, could not have found a better custodian.

Jim served the Neuchatel community for many years grading township roads. He was also instrumental in numerous projects geared toward preserving and maintaining the Neuchatel church, school, and hall, and mowed the Neuchatel cemetery for over 30 years. He registered as an organ donor and was able to donate his corneas to Saving Sight.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents, and older brother Frank Clifford Labbe. He is survived by son James Frederick (Ricky) DeFore, Wichita, KS, daughter Corina (Jeff) Dodson, Wichita, KS, grandchildren Derrick (Kristy) Dodson, Briana (Aaron) Coursey, and Ashton (Drew) Gordon, 12 great grandchildren, nieces Marcia Labbe (Ed Tucker), Onaga, and Amber (Michael) Labbe Murphy, and nephews Rodney Labbe (Alida), Shawnee, OK, and Christian (Megan) Labbe, Arcadia, OK.

While Jim was well known to have been willing to share a drink with anyone, often until they could no longer accept another, he requested that no service be held to mark his passing. However, in the spirit of enjoying time with your friends and loved ones, it is the family's hope that you gather your people and raise a glass, of whatever you enjoy, in his honor.

Following his cremation, a private interment at Neuchatel Cemetery will be held at a later date.

To plant a beautiful memorial tree in memory of James, please visit our Tree Store.

Hide ^

Events

Ravae Murdock

December 13, 1945 - May 02, 2025

Ravae Murdock, 79 of Silver Lake, KS sadly left our world May 2, 2025.

She was born to Albert and Leota Kuenzi on December 13, 1945 and grew up in Bern Ks. She graduated Bern High School in 1963. She married Ray Murdock, April 4, 1965 who had been a life long friend since early childhood. He proceeded her in death after 56 years of marriage. They had two daughters, Vonita and Nichole.

Ravae was always involved in all her daughter's activities and events. She continued that commitment with all her grandkids. This included traveling to out of state competitions as a chaperone, providing transportation, being their bleacher cheering section, and providing goodies to share.

After more than 30 years of owning/operating her styling salon, Ravae retired, closing the salon and drove part time for USD 372, Silver Lake transportation department for 15 years.

Ravae was talented in a variety of areas to include music and textiles and tackled all projects with a "can do" outlook. If it required scissors or thread, strings or keys; she could produce a work of art. Her creativity and willingness to tackle any project was unmatched.

Ravae bravely fought an uphill battle with cancer these last 2 years and was known at the Stormont Vail cancer center for her colorful hats and cheery disposition. She is survived by her daughters Vonita (Lon) Lewis, Berryton Ks, Nichole Murdock, Kansas City, MO; grandchildren Brandon, Jordan, Rodger, Roman and Isaac (Vonita); Lukas, Kaleb, Peyten, and Garet (Nichole), a great grandchild, Dawson (Lukas), brother Jack (Ardena) Kuenzi, sister LaVonne (Jerry) Wilson, nieces, nephews, great nieces and great nephews.

Private graveside inurnment services will be held. Contributions in her memory can be sent to the Midland Hospice House in Topeka, Kansas.

Mercer Funeral Home

John D. Nichols

(July 27, 1944 - April 2, 2025)

John Douglas Nichols, 80, of Mayetta, KS, died April 2, 2025 at his home with family by his side. He was born July 27, 1944 in Seneca, KS. He was the son of Rollen Aaron and Nancy Frances (Talley) Nichols

He attended school in Corning, KS, Lima, OH, Holton, KS and graduated in 1962 from Hoyt High School in Hoyt, KS. He served in the United States Air Force as Airman 2 and later the Air National Guard as Staff Sargeant. He was in the first apprenticeship program at Goodyear and worked there until he medically retired in 1997.

John married Darlene Castor on August 30, 1966. They have two sons, Jason Nichols of Oskaloosa, KS and Michael Nichols (who preceded him in death).

Survivors include his wife of over 58 years; son, Jason Nichols (Angie); granddaughters, Samantha Rubio (Clayton) and Whitney Lemon (Kyle); great-grandchildren, Paxton and Madelyn; sister, Margie Thompson of Mayetta, KS and sister-in-law, Joan Nichols of River Oaks, TX.

He was preceded in death by his son, Michael; brother, Raymond Nichols and parents and grandparents.

John took pride in all he did and all he had. He loved the outdoors, gardening, flowers and his yard. He also enjoyed being on his tractor and skid steer loader at the farm, whether it was work or play. He had to be busy all the time. If he put his mind to it, there wasn't anything he couldn't make and find an easier way to do it. It seems he always had a project or was thinking up one to do. He loved his wife, Darlene and family. The time spent with his son was very important to him.

Cremation is planned. John has requested there be no services, visitation or celebration of life. Memorials may be given to Faith Hospice c/o Mercer Funeral Home, P.O. Box 270, Holton, KS 66436.

Margie Pressgrove

December 11, 1949 - March 15, 2025

Margie Pressgrove passed away on March 15, 2025, in Topeka, KS, at the age of 75. Born on December 11, 1949, in Seneca, KS,

Margie was a proud graduate of Frankfort High School in Frankfort, KS. Her thirst for knowledge and commitment to personal growth led her to further her education at Washburn University, where she earned both an Associate and a Bachelor of Applied Science. With her education as a foundation, she embarked on a career as a self-employed case manager for adults with disabilities, a role in which she touched the lives of many.

She is remembered by her children, Cristeen Pressgrove and Curtis Pressgrove. Her grandchildren, Austin Creollo, Alicia Creollo and her fiancé Michael Hubbard, Michelle Mayer, Richard and his wife Omega Hendrix, and Jesse Hendrix, as well as her three great-grandchildren. Her sister Judy Weakley and her two boys. Margie was preceded in death by her parents Howard and Elizabeth Bronaugh, her daughters, Crystal Pressgrove and Coral Quasebarth, and her great-granddaughter Abby Bradley.

Tribute Wall

Marlene Prosser

September 23, 1950 - April 4, 2025

Marlene Ann (Hermesch) Prosser, 74, of Grantville, Kansas, peacefully met Jesus face to face on Friday, April 4, 2025, with her family surrounding her. She was born September 23, 1950, in Axtell, Kansas, the daughter of the late Lambert and Florence (Niehues) Hermesch. She married Ernest "Ernie" M. Prosser on March 22, 1986, in Topeka, Kansas. They recently celebrated 39 years of marriage. Marlene is survived by her husband, Ernie Prosser; children, Brian Swim (Holly), Jacob Prosser (Rebecca), Julie Kelly (Matthew), Jonathan Prosser (Amanda); stepchildren, Kristy Valentine, Sherry Prosser Reitmayer, and Matthew Prosser (Montana); grandchildren “grandjoys,” Bethany (Connor), Jayda, Caleb (Tatum), Willow, Ian, Ruthie (Gavin), Dharma, Jenna, Zachary, Amelia, Jonah, Jase, Levi, Maisy, Karl, Avery, Harper, Adalee, Lillevi, Meadow, Ellowyn; great-grandchildren, Calvin, Genevieve, Jackson, Sawyer, Lorelei, Beckham, Talia, Blakely, Elliott, Lydia, Araya, Lillian; her sisters, Anita Hermesch, Francie Bunch (Doug), Joyce Hamza (Nashwan), and Alice Cornelison (Jeff); brother, Jim Hermesch (Laurie); and many other extended family members and dear friends. She was preceded in death by her sister, Carla Hermesch.

Marlene's siblings have shared that as the oldest daughter in their family, she had a great love and devotion to her parents, beginning very early in her life. Growing up on a dairy farm, she would always seek out ways to be helpful, including going out as a young girl to get the cows. Her children recall her stories of cooking, cleaning, and driving on the farm, even in her youth. She especially loved caring for her younger siblings, and she was confident in her role as the eldest daughter and sister. Marlene graduated from Wetmore High School in 1968. She went on to try a few professional pursuits, but it was outside of those ventures where her passion and purpose came to fruition. Her relationship with Christ was the most important thing to her, and she lived in such a way that no one could doubt it.

She truly enjoyed her roles as a wife, mom, and later a grandma "Oppie" and great grandma. Her family describes her as the glue that held everyone together. But she didn't limit herself to just her family either, she was a true vessel of God's love to everyone

around her. Marlene was called her grandma nickname, Oppie, or other nicknames like "Mama Prosser," by many people who were not related to her, but lucky enough to have found their way into the heart of a woman who just never wanted to stop caring for others. Many would say that her hugs were some of the best, and that she was one of the kindest and most merciful people they have ever met. She volunteered her time in countless ways, including taking care of children in her church nursery, making meals and treats for people, and supporting all her loved ones' pursuits. She always, always prayed for others and followed up about prayer requests. In essence, she was a mighty prayer warrior. She deeply cared for everyone and dedicated as much of her life to loving and helping others as she possibly could.

She genuinely cherished spending time with people, especially when she got to sit down at a table to play cards, particularly the game Spades, which she learned from her father. It became like a sport in the family, with multi-generation tournaments taking place whenever possible. Marlene enjoyed being outside and going on walks, going on vacations and watching movies with her family, and most of all, she loved God. Her faith and her testimony have already had a tremendous reach, spreading farther than any one of us will ever really know. Her life was an authentic reflection of Christ, leaving behind multiple generations impacted by her endless love and unwavering faith.

Visitation will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 25, 2025, at Lion and Lamb Church, 2401 SW Belle Avenue, Topeka, Kansas 66614. A funeral service to celebrate Marlene's life will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 26, at the church. The burial will follow at Grantville Cemetery in Grantville, Kansas.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you consider donating to assist with medical and funeral expenses. Marlene's sister, Alice, has set up a fundraiser at http://spot.fund/p71dx kdsc
Donations can also be made directly to Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Rd, Topeka, KS 66614.

Condolences may be sent online at www.kevinbrennanfamily.com

Cemetery Details

Grantville Cemetery

2702 Detlor Road
Grantville, KS 66429

Upcoming Events

Visitation

APR **25.** 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM (CT)

Lion and Lamb Church
2401 SW Belle Ave.
Topeka, KS 66614

Funeral Service

APR **26.** 10:00 AM (CT)

Lion and Lamb Church
2401 SW Belle Ave.
Topeka, KS 66614

1937 — Lola — 2025

Lola Irene Stattelman

August 3, 1937 — April 29, 2025
Topeka

Lola Irene Stattelman, 87, of Topeka, passed away on Tuesday, April 29, 2025, at her home.

She was born August 3, 1937, in Wetmore, Kansas, the youngest of six children to Edward Wittenbach and Ina (Hawley) Wittenbach. Lola attended schools in Wetmore and graduated from Wetmore High School in 1955.

Lola worked at First National Bank and then for Southwestern Bell in Topeka, as an administrative assistant. She retired in 1991.

She was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church and was involved in the Altar Society.

Lola was very talented at sewing, crocheting, and quilting. She enjoyed dancing, playing bridge and pitch, as well as attending and watching KU Basketball games. Lola was a dedicated wife, mother, and grandmother. Attending her family's activities and sporting events gave her much joy.

On November 9, 1957, Lola married Richard Edward Stattelman, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Topeka. They celebrated 67 years together. Richard survives of the home.

Other survivors include her children, Pamela Diel and husband Dave of Ozawkie, William Stattelman and wife Karen of Topeka, and Deborah Cox and husband Michael of Auburn; sister, Dona McCulley of Holton; grandchildren, Alex Stattelman, Sean Stattelman, Kaitlyn Haas, Connor Cox, Caleb Cox, Trevor Cox, Derek Diel, Danae Brandenburgh; great grandchildren, Charlotte Stattelman, Marybelle Haas, Dakota Diel, Dalton Diel, Tyson Dultmeier, Alexis Dultmeier, and Bailey Dultmeier.

Lola was preceded in death by her parents; son, Richard Stattelman Jr; siblings, Opal Bryant, Melvin Wittenbach, Ione Fletcher, and Edwin Wittenbach; as well as a granddaughter, Meghan Elizabeth Cox.

A visitation with the family will be Sunday, May 4, from 5:00-7:00pm, at Brennan-Mathena Funeral Home, with a rosary prayed at 5:00pm.

A memorial Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Monday, May 5, at 10:00am, at St. Joseph Catholic Church. Inurnment will be in Mt. Calvary Cemetery-Topeka.

Memorial contributions are suggested to St. Joseph Catholic Church, sent in care of Brennan-Mathena Funeral Home, 800 SW 6th Ave. Topeka, KS 66603.

To view the obituary or share a fond memory of Lola, please visit www.brennanmathenafh.com.

Arrangements entrusted to Brennan-Mathena Funeral Home.

Service Schedule

Upcoming Services

Memorial Visitation
Sunday, May 4, 2025
5:00 - 7:00 pm (Central time)
Brennan Mathena Funeral Home
800 SW 6th Avenue, Topeka, KS 66603

Rosary
Sunday, May 4, 2025
Starts at 5:00 pm (Central time)
Brennan Mathena Funeral Home
800 SW 6th Avenue, Topeka, KS 66603

Memorial Mass of Christian Burial
Monday, May 5, 2025
Starts at 10:00 am (Central time)
St. Joseph Catholic Church
227 SW Van Buren St, Topeka, KS 66603

Inurnment
Monday, May 5, 2025
Mt. Calvary Cemetery
801 SW Westchester Rd, Topeka, KS 66606

Provided by Dorr & Clark Funeral Home

Lucille Yoesel

March 20, 2025

Lucille A. Yoesel, 98, of Sabetha, KS, passed away March 20, 2025 at Sabetha. She was born October 10, 1926 at Falls City, NE to Elmer and Amelia (Zimmerman) Scheitel.

She married Kenneth P. Yoesel on May 9, 1948 at Falls City. He passed away January 20, 2016

Lucille was born and raised east of Falls City. When the couple married, they established their home for 2 years in Falls City and later moved to Morrill, KS and continued to live there. She was a homemaker for most of her life. She was a cook at the Fountain Villa in Sabetha for a couple of years. She was a member of North Ridge Church at Sabetha.

Lucille is survived by her sons, Kent and his wife Belinda of Union, TN, Mark and his wife Marie of Willamina, OR, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, a son in infancy, brothers, Marvin and Wilbur Scheitel and a sister, Evelyn Gatz.

A Graveside service will be held, Tuesday, March 25, 2025 at 1:30 P.M. at Steele Cemetery with Pastor Charlie Robinson officiating.

No viewing or visitation. A register book may be signed at Dorr and Clark Funeral Home during regular business hours.

Services

Graveside Service
Tuesday
March 25, 2025
1:30 PM
Steele Cemetery
65060 706 Trail
Falls City, NE 68355

Mercer Funeral Home

Jennie L. Baker

(June 4, 1937 - February 22, 2025)

Jennie L. Baker, 87, of Goff, KS, passed away Saturday, February 24, 2025 at Stormont Vail Hospital in Topeka. She was born June 4, 1937 in Council Grove, KS, the daughter of Leon and Flossie (Peters) Carroll.

Jennie grew up on a farm in Council Grove. She graduated from Council Grove High School in 1955. She worked at Cake 'O Gram in Topeka for 15 years and later owned and operated Mom's Bakery in Council Grove for over 10 years.

She previously attended Soldier Christian Church. Jennie enjoyed gardening, playing Solitaire and going to the casino.

She married John Lee Baker; he preceded her in death in 2014. She married Clarence Carpenter and he preceded her in death. She was also preceded in death by her parents, Leon and Flossie Carroll; son, David Baker and 3 brothers, Morris and Freddie Ziegler and Graydon Carroll.

Survivors include her son, Michael Baker of Goff, KS and a brother, Sam Ziegler of Ft. Lauderdale, FL.

Private family inurnment will be at a later date at Prairie Home Cemetery. Mercer Funeral Home in Holton is in charge of arrangements. To leave a special message for the family, please visit www.mercerfuneralhomes.com.

Dishon-Maple-Chaney Mortuary

Robert "Corky" Eugene Britt

(May 3, 1928 - February 16, 2025)

Robert "Corky" Eugene Britt, 96, of Horton, Kansas, passed away Sunday, February 16th at his home surrounded by loved ones. He was born May 3, 1928, in Seneca Kansas to Wilda Stine Britt and Elisha Britt. He earned the nickname Corky from a beloved uncle because he was born the same day as Corky from the comic strip Gasoline Alley.

Robert graduated from Seneca High School in 1946. He enlisted in the Army at age 18. He served on active duty in Korea for a year. Upon return, he remained in the military in the Army Reserves and National Guard. He was promoted through the ranks retiring as a Captain. He served as a commanding officer in an Army Reserve unit in Seneca, Ks. before his military retirement. He was a past member of the VFW and the American Legion. After active duty he returned home to begin employment with the Kansas Highway Commission where he worked as a civil engineer in Marysville. In 1976, the family moved to Horton where he continued working for KDOT. In 1997 he retired from KDOT after nearly 50 years of employment. In 1960 he married the love of his life, LaVelda Messick in Marysville, KS. They were married for 60 yrs. He was always by her side until her death in 2020.

Robert had many hobbies in retirement. LaVelda enlisted him for help with many craft projects. He also loved working in his yard planting fake flowers and mowing whether the yard needed it or not. Many times he rode his lawnmower around the yard with a grandchild on his lap. He loved anything with a motor, owning boats, motorcycles, and many cars and trucks. He could often be found tinkering in his garage on one of those. He was last seen riding his moped around Horton at the age of 92. He never knew a stranger and loved to visit with anyone he met. He always had a peppermint or butterscotch candy to give to anyone he met. He was the kindest and most gentle man you could ever meet.

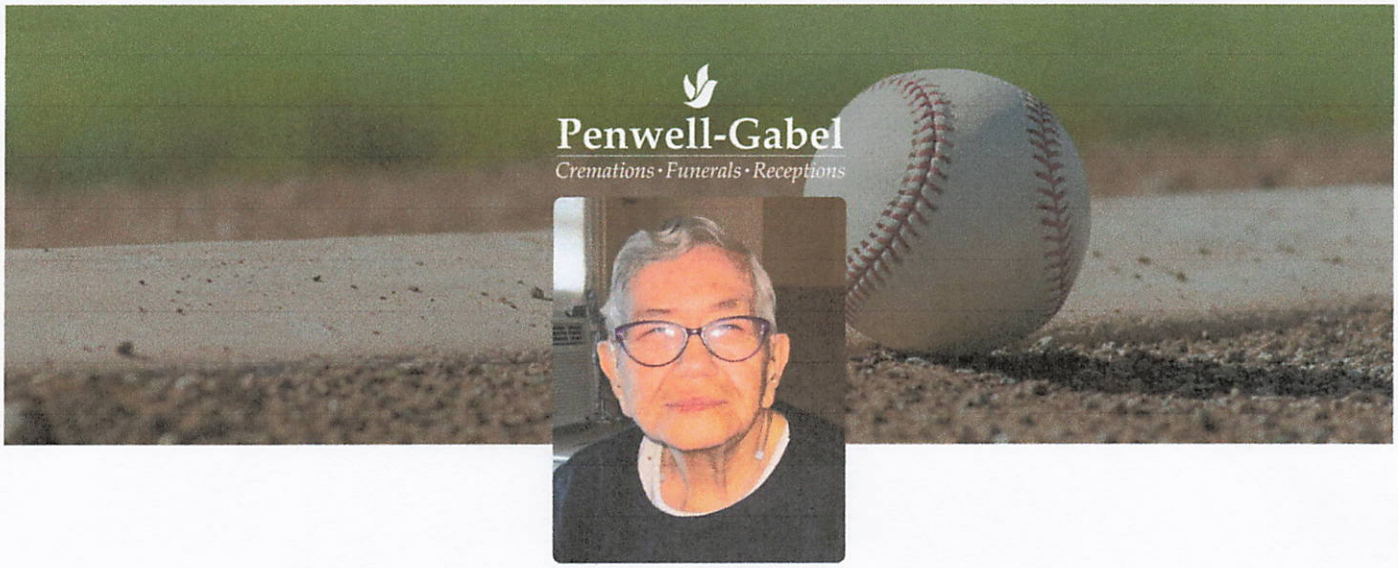
His favorite "motor" was a one horsepower pony named Beauty. He received Beauty as a gift from a beloved uncle when he was 12. thus grew his lifelong love of horses. He owned many horses and participated in many horse events earlier in his life while living in Marysville, KS. He competed in horseshows regularly in Marysville KS. and in northeast KS and won many events with a quarterhorse named Queenie. He was active in trailrides in the northern Flint hills as well as cattle drives.

Last but no way least was his love for his family and especially his grandchildren. He was an amazing human being who showered his family with so much love and compassion. He loved attending any events they participated in. He always praised and supported them. He always said how much we made him proud. He was not just grandpa or dad. He was our best friend, our mentor, and our rock.

Robert was preceded in death by his wife LaVelda, daughter of Sylvia and Moody Messick, brother Leroy, and his parents.

Robert is survived by son Robert Gene Britt of Lyndon Kansas, Tracy Britt of Everest, Kansas (Alisa), daughter Shelly Curtis of Topeka, Kansas (William) daughter Deanna Meisenheimer of Hiawatha, Kansas (Gary); grandchildren Dane and Kady Curtis, Nicholas and Casey Britt, Nathan Britt, Bethany and Joey Gonzalez, Megan Vega, Keely and Alex Fink; great grandchildren; Mia Britt, Mac Fink and Joseph Gonzalez Jr; a niece Jackie Britt Messick (Stanley) of Idaho Falls, Idaho and many great nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be at 2:00 P.M. on Tuesday, February 25th, 2025, at the Dishon-Maple-Chaney Mortuary in Horton Kansas. Burial will be at the Horton Cemetery. In lieu of flowers memorials may be made to N.E.K. Home Health and Hospice and may be sent in care of the mortuary.



1933 — Verna — 2025

Verna M. Byers

August 14, 1933 — February 15, 2025
Topeka

Verna M. Byers, 92, of Topeka, KS passed away on Saturday, February 15, 2025.

She grew up in Beatie, KS, the daughter of Verner and Ruby Byers.

Verna dedicated over 30 years to the State of Kansas as a Data Entry Clerk.

She loved watching sports of all kinds, but baseball was her favorite. Verna also enjoyed watching the news. She was an avid cat lover.

No services are planned at this time.

Mercer Funeral Home

Larry E. Dean

(November 24, 1952 - March 3, 2025)

Larry Eugene Dean, 72, of Holton, KS, formerly of Wetmore, KS, passed March 3, 2024 unexpectedly at his home. He was born November 24, 1952 in Sabetha, KS, the son of Robert V. and Elizabeth A. (Wyatt) Dean.

Larry attended Granada and Wetmore Grade Schools and later earned his GED. He proudly served in the United States Army from 1971 – 1979, during the Vietnam War.

Larry worked on the farm for George Achten as a farmhand, cattleman and repairing fence. He also mowed and maintained the Granada Cemetery.

He was a member of the Wetmore United Methodist Church.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Robert and Elizabeth Dean; 3 sisters, Barbara Hughes, Mary Krevanko and Viola Jensen and 3 brothers, Robert, Frank and Richard Dean.

He is survived by nieces, nephews, cousins and extended family.

Graveside Inurnment at a later date. Mercer Funeral Home in Holton is in charge of arrangements.

Mary Chandler Obituary

Mary Chandler, 80, of Falls City, NE, passed away February 11, 2025. She was born May 10, 1944 at Humbolt, NE to Everett and Ruby (Boydston) Watkins.

She married Gene Chandler January 29, 1961at Sabetha, KS, he passed away July 2, 2020.

Mary was raised in the Sabetha area. After she was married her and her husband made their home in Sabetha. They then moved to Falls City in 1967. They lived in various places and is best known for owning Mary's Daycare in Falls City for many years. Mary was also a dietary aide at Midland Villa Nursing Home and had other odd jobs. She loved to crochet in her free time.

Mary is survived by her children, Jeff and his wife Donna of Garnett, KS, Sheila Seager and her husband Terry of Topeka, KS, Kim Chandler of Tulsa, OK, Jaime Frederick of Falls City, Ne, son-in-law, Jeff Ferris of Salem, NE, brothers, Doug Watkins of Hiawatha, KS, Dennis Watkins of Horton, KS, sister, Wanda Moore of Horton, KS. Fifteen grandchildren and many great-grandchildren. Proceeded in death by parents, husband, son, Ricky in infancy, brother, David Watkins, and a daughter, Tina Ferris.

Services are currently pending.

To send flowers (/obituary/Mary-Chandler/sympathy-landing) to the family or plant a tree (/obituary/Mary-Chandler/1077797/memorial-tree) in memory of Mary Chandler, please visit our floral store. (/obituary/Mary-Chandler/sympathy-landing)

How did you know Mary Chandler?

Family | Friend | Work | Other

Help others honor Mary's memory

Share Obituary

Services

PENDING

Dorr & Clark Funeral Home
2303 Harlan Street
Falls City, NE 68355

Directions (https://maps.google.com/?q=2303+Harlan+Street,+Falls+City,+NE+68355)

Text Details

Email Details

Tribute Wall

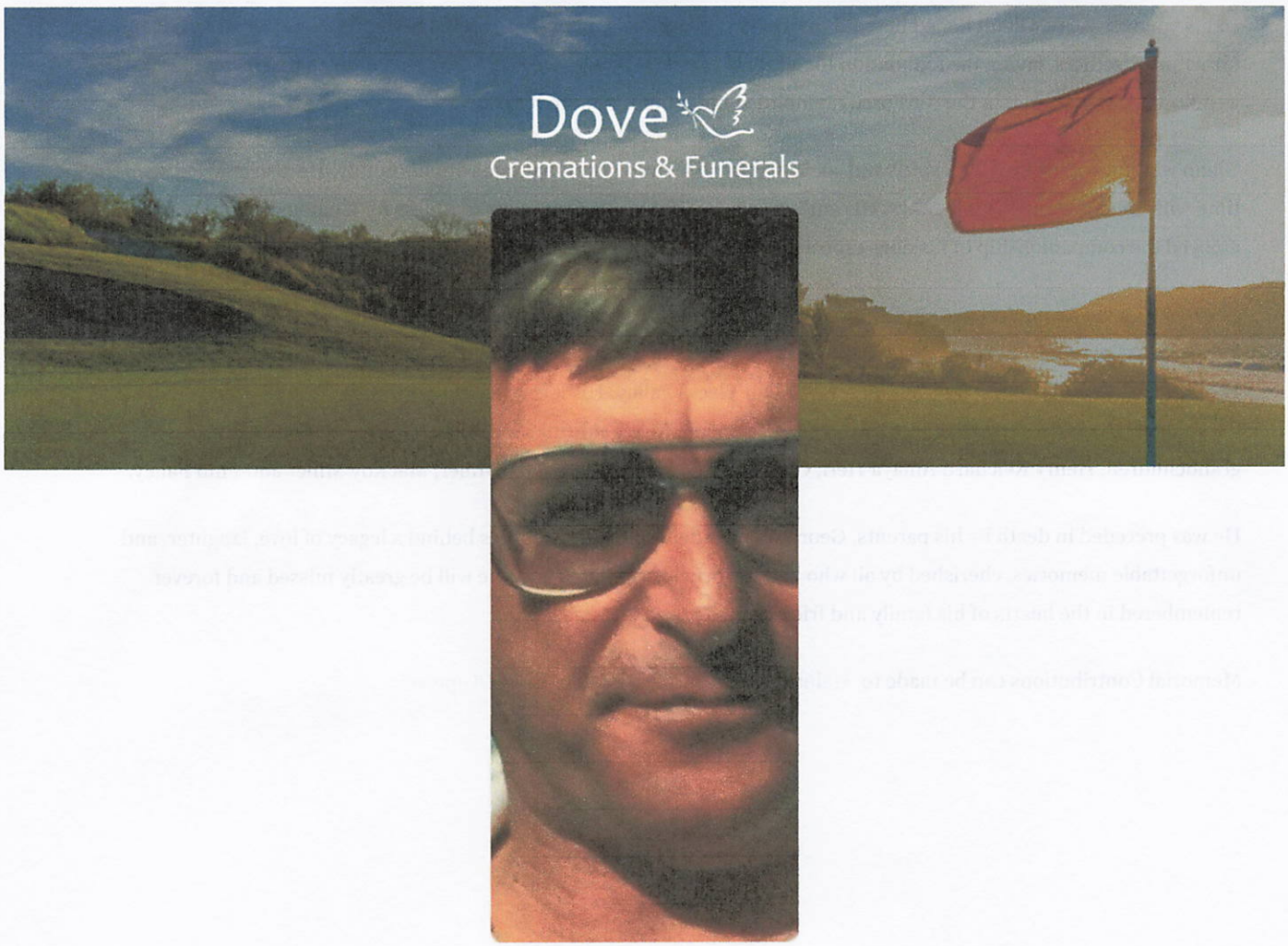
Share a Memory

Plant a tree in memory of Mary

An environmentally-friendly option

Plant a tree (/obituary/Mary-Chandler/1077797/memorial-tree)

Plant a Tree (/obituary/Mary-Chandler/1077797/memorial-tree)



Glenn Elvin Hailey

September 20, 1932 — February 20, 2025
Topeka

Glenn Elvin Hailey, cherished family man and respected member of his community, passed away on February 20, 2025, in Topeka, Kansas, at the age of 92. Born on September 20, 1932, in Seneca, Kansas, Glenn led a life rich in experiences, accomplishments, and joyful moments.

Glenn dedicated over 30 years to the United States Postal Service, where he not only served the public but also committed himself to advocacy for postal workers. His active involvement in the American Postal Workers Union was notable, and he took great pride in serving as president for many years. Glenn's work ethic and dedication left a lasting impact on his colleagues and the organization.

In his younger years, Glenn honed his skills as a carpenter, crafting numerous homes in the Topeka area alongside his father and brothers, laying the foundation for a future where he would become a devoted family man. His military service as a Korean War veteran in the Air Force exemplified his commitment to his country.

Glenn was known for his joyful spirit and social nature. He loved spending time with his family. He also enjoyed spending time with friends over a couple beers. His enthusiasm for life was evident in his fondness for singing, his love of golf. He enjoyed the companionship of his dogs especially while watching tv.

Above all, Glenn's proudest accomplishment was his family. He is survived by his beloved wife, Brenda Norris, with whom he shared 37 years of marriage. He leaves behind his children, Gail (Darrell) Miller, Glenda (Mark Scheid) Herl, Doug Hailey, Gina (Joe) Tenbrink, and Jennifer (Cliff Van Vleck) Falley. His legacy continues through his six grandchildren, Sarah Reichart, Jared Herl, Scott Miller, Lindsay Tenbrink, Kyle Tenbrink, and Jordan Falley, as well as five great-grandchildren, Henry Reichart, Amaya Herl, Gus Reichart, Malia Herl,Leigha Miller, MacKoy Miller and Finn Falley.

He was preceded in death by his parents, George and Sadie Hailey. Glenn leaves behind a legacy of love, laughter, and unforgettable memories, cherished by all who had the privilege to know him. He will be greatly missed and forever remembered in the hearts of his family and friends.

Memorial Contributions can be made to Helping Hands Human Society Inc. of Topeka

Day David Hall

Obituaries / 17 February 2025

JUNE 12, 1943 - FEBRUARY 14, 2025

Day David Hall, 81, of Centralia, Kansas, passed away on February 14, 2025. He was born on June 12, 1943, in Teaberry, Kentucky, to Wayne and Mary (Tackett) Hall.

Day was a dedicated outdoorsman and a lifelong coon hunter. His passion for the sport led him to remarkable success in competition coon hunting, where he even achieved the prestigious honor of winning a world hunt several times. He educated many on the art of dog handling and introduced them to the thrill of coon hunting. His love for the outdoors was evident in every aspect of his life, and he found great joy in the camaraderie and skill that came with hunting and fishing. He also enjoyed spending hours at the casino with his beloved wife.

Beyond his passion for hunting, Day was a hardworking businessman who owned and operated The Tire Cutters in Centralia, Kansas.

Day is survived by his wife, Linda Hall of Centralia; six daughters, Angela (Courtney) Seward of Topeka, Christina (George) Warren of Auburn, Jennifer (Joseph) Duncan of Tecumseh, Sherri Lindsey of Centralia, Michelle Frederick of Centralia, and Jeanette Hall of Leavenworth as well as three sons, James Lindsey of Centralia, Dae Hall of California, Robert Hall of Stafford. He also leaves behind over 25 grandchildren and great-grandchildren who will cherish his memory.

He was preceded in death by his parents and his siblings.

Day's legacy lives on through the family he loved and the many lives he touched through his passions and work. May his memory bring comfort to those who knew him.

A celebration of life will be held at a

Read Prayers and Memory's for "Day

Angels above
Cremations Services
Topeka KS.

Laura Lee Hobrock

October 5, 1931 — February 11, 2025
Topeka

Laura Lee Hobrock, age 93, of Topeka, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at Aldersgate Home Plus, surrounded by the warmth and love of her family.

Born on October 5, 1931 to John and Ethel (Howard) Farley in Centralia, Kansas. Laura was a bright light from her earliest days. Raised in Nemaha County, she graduated from Soldier High School, where she began to cultivate the spirit of community and kindness that would define her life. After high school, she moved to Topeka and worked for several years for the Kansas Corporation Commission.

Laura met Howard on a blind date with mutual friends. On November 7, 1954 Laura exchanged vows with Howard H. Hobrock at First United Methodist Church in Topeka. Together they nurtured a loving home, raising their two beloved children, Brian and Marta, who were the center of their lives and their greatest joy.

Once the kids entered school, Laura became a very successful Tupperware Consultant for many years. She was an active member of the First United Methodist Church of Topeka where she taught Sunday school and VBS. She volunteered doing the laundry for the Downtown Daycare Center for many years. She served as a leader to both Cub Scouts and Camp Fire girls. Laura served as President of the Topeka Women's Club and President of the United Methodist Women's group.

Laura's support for her loved ones knew no bounds; if there was a need, she was there without hesitation. She was known for her delicious homemade cinnamon rolls, a testament to her loving spirit and nurturing heart. Laura was an avid walker, embracing the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors. She loved collecting her dolls, plates and spoons from her travels.

As we remember Laura, we celebrate a life rich with love, faith and cherished memories. She leaves behind a legacy of kindness and joy that will forever be etched in the heart of those who had the privilege to know her.

Laura is survived by her son, Brian (Susan) Hobrock , Cimarron, NM, daughter, Marta (Brian) Howard, Hoyt, KS, grandchildren, Jacob (Amanda) Russell, Josh (Ashlee) Russell, Samantha Howard, Chance (Jentry) Hobrock, Brooks Hobrock, Lane (Courtney) Hobrock, and great-grandchildren, Carter Russell, Cora Russell, Tate Russell, Piper Russell, Deklin Hobrock, Howard Hobrock, Collins Hobrock and Murphy Hobrock.

She was preceded in death by her loving husband, Howard H. Hobrock, John and Ethel Farley and grandchild, Amanda Howard.

A visitation will be held Monday, February 24th from 5:00-7:00PM at Penwell-Gabel Midtown Chapel, 1321 SW 10th Avenue, Topeka, KS 66604.

Funeral services will be held on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, 10:00 am at the First United Methodist Church, 600 SW Topeka Blvd, Topeka, KS 66603. Graveside services will immediately follow at Memorial Park Cemetery, 3616 SW 6th Ave. Topeka, KS.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions are suggested to First United Methodist Church of Topeka, Interim Hospice, or the Topeka Women's Club.

To share a memory of Laura, or leave a special message for her family, please visit the guest book below.

Dishon-Maple-Chaney Mortuary

Stanley Joseph Holthaus

(June 13, 1946 - February 15, 2025)

Stanley J Holthaus 78, of Horton, Kansas passed away, February 15, 2025, at the Stormont Vail Hospital in Topeka, Kansas. He was born on June 13, 1946, in Centralia Kansas, the son of the late Cyril and Emma Deters Holthaus. Stan served in the US Navy and was an electrician for the United States post office.

Survivors include, Jim Holthaus, Horton, Kansas, Mike Holthaus, Horton, Kansas, Clint Holthaus, Hiawatha, Kansas, Ruby (Harold) Heinen, Denton, Kansas, and brother-in-law, Gary Handke. Atchison, Kansas. And numerous nieces and nephews.

Stan was proceeded in death by his parents and sisters, Barbara Jones, Kathy Handke and infant Pamela Holthaus.

The family will hold a private service.

Barnett Family Funeral Home

Marilyn Rose (Huckabay) Koelzer

(March 8, 1933 - March 6, 2025)

Marilyn Rose (Huckabay) Koelzer, 91, of Oskaloosa, formerly of Ozawkie/Meriden, passed away peacefully Thursday, March 6, 2025 at Rest Well Home Plus Assisted Living Center in Oskaloosa. She was born March 8, 1933 in Seneca, KS, the daughter of Frank and Nola Mathewson. She was married to Jack P. Huckabay on April 16, 1955. Jack preceded her in death on March 5, 2012. On May 30, 2015, she married David Koelzer, he survives.

She was a 1949 graduate of Saints Peter and Paul Catholic School in Seneca. She then attended, and graduated in 1953, as a Registered Nurse from St. Francis Hospital School of Nursing in Topeka, KS. Her 43 year career providing dedicated nursing care began at Hiawatha Community Hospital before moving to the Jefferson County Health Department. She then worked alongside Dr. Lumb, a rheumatologist in Topeka. Her true passion was always caring for her patients and providing compassionate support which led to her returning to Jefferson County Home Health and Hospice to finish her nursing career. Being a nurse came naturally to her because she had the biggest heart!

Beyond her career, Marilyn found immense pleasure in the simple things in life. She loved her children and enjoyed her grandkids and great-grandkids, going to activities to support and cheer them on, taking long walks, and time nurturing her garden! She enjoyed the card game of Bridge. You could find her gathered around a table of friends on a Saturday night, or joining several local Bridge groups during retirement. She was dedicated to volunteering at God's Storehouse in Meriden for many years.

Marilyn's family was her pride and joy. Survivors include loving daughters, Jan Wells, Meriden, KS, and Joleen Nocktonick, Denton, TX, devoted sons, Jay (Kathy Barbagallo) Huckabay, Blue Springs, MO, and Jeff (Tami Martin) Huckabay, Topeka, KS, two sisters, Donna (Jim) Stewart, Greenfield, IN, and Ruth (Bill) Gapske, Overland Park, KS, 11 grandchildren: Justin (Katrina) Huckabay, Jessica (Andre) Card, Jamie Wells, Brian Wells, Taryn (Wyatt) Steenson, Payton (Samuel) Nobo, Riley (Ryan) Luna, Jayden (Daim) Povilauskaite, Logan Nocktonick, Avery Nocktonick, Haydn Nocktonick and nine great-grandchildren: Aly (Alyse) Huckabay, Joel Huckabay, Jocelyn Card, Andrew Card, Briley Wells, Brayden Webb, Camden Wells, Marianna Luna, and Melia Luna.

She was preceded in death by three brothers: Gerald Mathewson, Kenneth Mathewson, and Max Mathewson.

Mass of Christian Burial will be 11:00 AM, Saturday, March 15, 2025 at St. Aloysius Catholic Church in Meriden, with Parish Rosary at 10:00 AM and Visitation till 11:00 AM Service time. Cremation Care will follow services with inurnment at Horton City Cemetery, Horton, KS at a later date. Memorials suggested to Jefferson County Friends of Hospice or to God's Storehouse in Meriden, in care of the Barnett Funeral Home, P.O. Box 602, Oskaloosa, KS, 66066. barnettfamilyfh.com

Mercer Funeral Home

LeRoy "Whitey" C. Lehmkuhl

(March 18, 1935 - May 5, 2025)

LeRoy Cyril "Whitey" Lehmkuhl passed away peacefully at home on May 5, 2025, with family at his side. He was born March 18, 1935 in Fidelity, KS, the first child of Vincent George and Margaret Mary Honeyman Lehmkuhl. He graduated from Sabetha High School in 1953.

LeRoy married Delores Ione Middendorf on May 4, 1957 at Fidelity, KS. To this union were born 2 daughters, Debra Jean and Brenda Kaye; 2 sons, Randy Joseph and Fredrick James.

LeRoy was a lifetime iron worker and belonged to Iron Workers Local #10 in Kansas City, MO.

One of his first loves, aside from Delores, was baseball. LeRoy was quite the pitcher when he played Legion Baseball at Sabetha. As his young family grew, he was involved in coaching his sons all the way from Pee Wees up through Legion Baseball. He also actively pursued fast pitch softball and spent many a summer's night playing slow pitch softball with his extended family along Highway 36.

In his retirement, LeRoy spent his best days out in the timber, cutting down trees with his trusty chainsaw. He took much pride in the way he fell a log and could tell you exactly how it would lay. He was a lifetime outdoorsman. In his younger days, he enjoyed following hounds on a cold brisk night as they were coon hunting. He has always enjoyed fishing with his family and was fortunate to share that love with 3 generations. He was quite a golfer, although he didn't pick up the sport until he was 65.

LeRoy is a member of St. Dominic's Catholic Church. He was an Honorary Member of Knight's of Columbus Council #4219 and was a member of the Optimist Club.

LeRoy is survived by his wife, Delores of the home; 2 daughters, Debra of Manhattan and Brenda Wilson (Gary) of Kansas City, MO; 2 sons, Randy Lehmkuhl (Teresa) of Gaylord, KS and Fred Lehmkuhl (Lisa) of Holton, KS; his grandchildren, Meggin Wease (Donnie), Austin Freed (Joe), Jodi Skyler (Aaron), Katie Morris (Jared), Ryan Lehmkuhl (Sara), Kelsey Wilson (Blake), Danielle Hopkins (Harry), Donovan Meek, Nicholas Lehmkuhl (Lexi) and Corey Lehmkuhl. He was blessed and very proud of his 8 great-grandsons and 3 great-granddaughters. Surviving siblings are Lois Buescher, Donna Young, Marge Bradbury (Rod), Kathy Chandler (Pete), Joe Lehmkuhl (Margie), Terry Lehmkuhl (Kristi) and Karen Lehmkuhl.

He was preceded in death by his parents, 1 sister Darlene Stahl, 2 brothers, Larry and Robert Lehmkuhl; and 2 brothers-in-law, Larry Stahl and Eddie Young.

Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 A.M. Monday, May 12, 2025 at St. Dominic Catholic Church in Holton, KS. Burial will follow at St. Augustine Cemetery at Fidelity, KS. The Rosary will be prayed at 4:00 P.M. Sunday, May 11, 2025 with the visitation to follow until 6:00 P.M. at the Mercer Funeral Home in Holton, KS. In Lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Knights of Columbus Council #4219 or to the Beck Bookman Library in Holton, c/o Mercer Funeral Home, P.O. Box 270, Holton, KS 66436.

Cheryl Louise (Lierz) McNish

Obituaries / 10 February 2025

Cheryl Louise (Lierz) McNish, 77 passed away peacefully on February 5th, 2025 surrounded by her loving husband. Cheryl was born January 8th, 1948 to Ralph and Marion Lierz in Axtel KS. She graduated from Topeka West High School in 1966 and worked as a beautician and a medical professional.

She married Robert "Bob" Wayne McNish February 10th, 1977 in Topeka, KS, They had 2 children Sarah (McNish) McBurney who was born in 1979 and Scott McNish (born in 1978). Cheryl was a devoted and loving wife, Mom and Grandma and loved to attend church, and spend time with her grandchildren.

Cheryl was preceded in death by her Parents, and Brother-in-law Tony Garcia, She is survived by her husband "Bob", sisters Nancy Garcia and Donna Colboch, her children Sarah and Scott (Amanda) her grandchildren Hannah, Rosie, Teresa, Shelby, Cheyenne, and Corrine, great grandchildren Azariah and Awndreous and several other family and friends.

The family will host a light luncheon and Celebration of Life service for Cheryl on Saturday February 15th 2025 from 1-3 PM at Lighthouse Bible Church 4110 NW 62nd St Suite B Topeka KS 66618.
Read Prayers and Memory's for "Cheryl Louise (Lierz) McNish"

Mercer Funeral Home

Virginia Frances Monson

(September 24, 1941 - March 14, 2025)

Virginia Frances Monson, 83, of Hiawatha, KS, formerly of Holton, KS, passed away Friday, March 14, 2025 at Maple Heights Nursing Home in Hiawatha. She was born September 24, 1941 in Granada, KS, the daughter of Leonard Andrew and Doris Irene (Guffy) Adams.

Virginia attended Wetmore High School. She was a homemaker and housewife.

She was a member of the Larkinburg Christian Church.

Viriginia married Russell "Stanley" Monson on October 11, 1958; they celebrated over 52 years of marriage before his passing on June 3, 2010. She was also preceded in death by her parents, Leonard and Doris Adams; sister, Carol Naftzger and brother, Harold Adams.

Survivors include 2 sons, Bradley Monson (Loree) of Everest, KS and Brian Monson (Mitzi) of Overland Park, KS; daughter, Shari Brown (Ron) of Richmond, MN; sister, Sharon Bohannon (Bill) of Denison, KS; 19 grandchildren; 40 great-grandchildren and 3 great-great-grandchildren.

Memorial Services will be held 11 A.M. Saturday, April 5, 2025 at the Larkinburg Christian Church. Memorials may be given to the Larkinburg Christian Church c/o Mercer Funeral Home, P.O. Box 270, Holton, KS 66436.

Mary Ann Petrie

August 22, 1941 - March 4, 2025

Mary Ann (Niehues) Petrie, 83, of Topeka, Kansas, passed away peacefully on March 4, 2025, at Midland Hospice House in Topeka, surrounded by her family.

Mary Ann was born on August 22, 1941, on the family farm near Golf, Kansas, to Bernard Albert and Alfreda Theresa (Kramer) Niehues Jr. She was the fourth of twelve children, the eldest daughter. Mary Ann graduated from Corning High School in 1959 while helping care for her younger siblings. She worked for the Kansas Department of Revenue for 47 years before retiring. Mary Ann was a member of Mater Dei Assumption Church for over 40 years. She volunteered for Hayden Bingo and was a coach and scorekeeper for several girls' softball teams at Lake Shawnee.

Mary Ann loved her family, especially her daughter, Sherry, and her son-in-law, Michael, as well as her granddaughters and step-grandchildren. She had unwavering faith and was known for praying rosaries and lifting others up in prayer. Mary Ann enjoyed genealogy, puzzles, history, the game show network, and spoiling her granddaughters and spending time with her family – and caring for them when in need. She was known to help anyone and was quick-witted. She often shared one-liners and stories up until the very end. Her legacy will be one of love, family, faith, courage, bravery and endurance. For every obstacle, Mary Ann stood taller. It was in these moments of adversity, she remembered and chose to live one of her father's lessons "Can't is not a word, it's just an excuse for being lazy". Mary Ann lived a productive, intentional, and simple life. She shared many lessons with Sherry and Michael while living in their home this last year. They cherished the wisdom, love, and spirit she brought into their home.

Mary Ann was preceded in death by her parents, brothers, James "Jimmy" Niehues, Gerald "Jerry" Niehues, and Eugene "Gene" Niehues, as well as sisters, Velma Morris and Linda Annan, and step grandson, Gavin Francis. She is survived by her daughter, Sherry (Michael) Fitzgerald; granddaughters, Maura Fitzgerald and Kaitlyn Fitzgerald; step-grandchildren, Sarah Coulter, Jessica (Cory) Francis, and Justin (Emily) Fitzgerald; nine great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandson; and seven siblings, Lester (Betty) Niehues, Gladys (David) Rusche, Donna (John) Roach, Bernard (Sonny) (Helen) Niehues III, Virginia Broadbent, and Joseph (Judy) Niehues; sisters-in-law, D'Ann Niehues and Zana Niehues; and many cherished nieces (12); nephews (14); and godsons, Stephen Morris, Jason Broadbent, and Bradley Rusche.

Family will greet friends from 3 to 4 p.m. Friday, March 14, at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614, where the rosary will begin at 4 p.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Saturday, March 15, 2025, at 10 a.m. at St. Patrick's Catholic Church, 6606 Atlantic Street, Corning, Kansas 66417. Burial will follow at St. Patrick's Cemetery in Corning, Kansas.

Memorial contributions may be made to Midland Hospice House or St. Patrick's Catholic Church, in care of the funeral home.

Condolences may be sent online at www.kevinbrennanfamily.com

Official Obituary of

Ernest Milton "Pete" Petry

May 28, 1938 - March 1, 2025

Share a memory

Obituary & Events

Tribute Wall

Ernest Milton "Pete" Petry Obituary

Ernest Milton "Pete" Petry, 86 of Council Grove (Formerly of Lawrence) died on Saturday, March 1, 2025, after surgery to repair a broken hip and a stroke that he suffered shortly thereafter.

Pete was born on May 28, 1938, in Ellis, Kansas to Ernest Franklin Petry and Florence Irene Adamson. He was the middle child of 3. He had an older sister who preceded him in death, Laquita "Cupie", a younger brother, who still survives, Vernon.

Pete earned his nickname to differentiate him from his father. A shortened version of his last name and it stuck with him for his entire life.

He grew up in Atchison. After graduating high school from Atchison High School, he met his future wife and mother of his 4 boys, Ellen Sue Stouppe.

Pete served in the military in Tacoma WA where he had a son, Mark Curtis who preceded him in death in 2018. He left Tacoma and settled in Sabetha, KS where he worked for Brey Auto Sales and operated the outdoor drive-In for a couple of years.

Pete eventually settled in Lawrence, KS working as a life insurance salesman. While raising 4 boys, he enjoyed coaching baseball for the Jaycee Jayhawks, serving as the President of DCABA and later commissioner of Holcomb Baseball.

Pete enjoyed fishing and would often take his kids fishing at Perry Lake. He also enjoyed taking them on long haul road trip vacations in his small, extremely uncomfortable blue Datsun, during the summer after baseball season had ended, through the western states of Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Idaho, Washington California and Nevada.

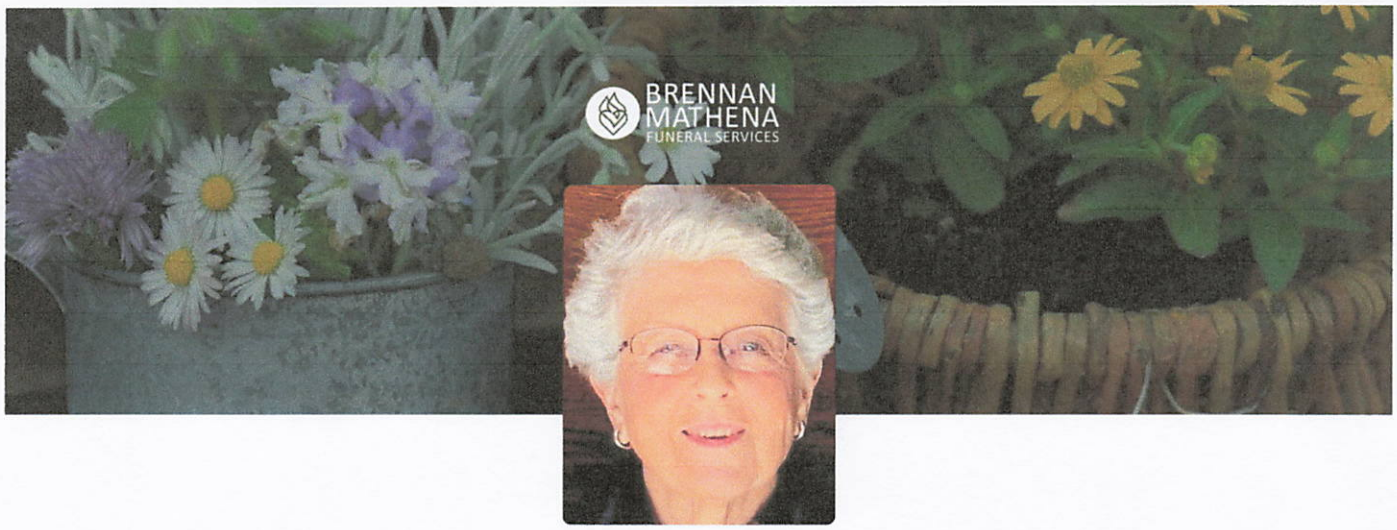
Later in life, Pete became an antique dealer and could be found at garage and estate sales around Lawrence, purchasing items for his multiple booths peddling his finds at the Antique Mall in Lawrence. He enjoyed KU basketball, football games and also parking cars at his house during basketball season.

Pete is survived by three children all born in Sabetha, KS. Scott Alan, wife Shirley of San Jose, Costa Rica, David Keith, wife Vicki of Council Grove, KS and Thad Steven, wife Kate of Boulder, CO, a bonus daughter, Jessica Yeomans, husband Cary of Bedford, TX. Seven grandkids Sara, Mark (Curtis), Jordan, Alec, Erica, Katelyn, Olivia, and two great-grandkids Roman, Robin and a bonus grandson, Hayden Savage also survive. He was preceded in death by a bonus grandson, Hunter Robinson.

Cremation has taken place. Graveside services at Oak Hill Cemetery, Lawrence, KS are pending.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made in Pete's memory to the Council Grove Senior Center, 227 W Main Street, Council Grove, KS 66846 or Good Shepherd Hospice House, 3801 Vanesta Drive, Manhattan, KS 66503.

To plant a beautiful memorial tree in memory of Ernest , please visit our Tree Store.



1934 — *Marlene* — 2024

Marlene E. Sinnott

May 27, 1934 — December 20, 2024
Lawrence

Marlene E. Sinnott, 90, passed away peacefully on Friday, December 20, 2024.

A longtime resident of Topeka, Kansas, Marlene was born in Seneca to Andrew Haverkamp and Melita Melcher Haverkamp. She earned a bachelor's degree from Mount St. Scholastica College where she met her husband, Stan Sinnott, who preceded her in death. Together, they lovingly raised their five children: Joan Noller (Barry), Kathy Sinnott, Christy Sinnott (Chris), Mike Sinnott (Krista), and Maria Sinnott. Marlene found immense joy in her role as a grandmother to Joe Noller (Katie), Sara Noller (Sean Cesare), and Molli Hardy (Jordan), and as a great-grandmother to five great-grandchildren, with a sixth expected soon. She was also a loving sister to her brothers: Marvin Haverkamp (Cory), C.E. Haverkamp, and Terry Haverkamp (Michele); she was preceded in death by her brother Jerry Haverkamp and sisters-in-law Jackie Haverkamp and Beka Haverkamp.

Marlene resided at Cedarhurst Senior Living in Lawrence, Kansas, where she continued to brighten the lives of those around her.

Marlene will always be remembered for her kindness, generosity, and deep faith. Her cherished community at Most Pure Heart of Mary Church in Topeka provided her with strength, support, and love over many years.

Many in Topeka will fondly recall Marlene's dedication as a volunteer at the Topeka Public Library, where she served as a Library Concierge for over 15 years. Her love of books and passion for reading made her a proud and valued member of the library community.

A visitation with the family will be 5:00pm to 7:00pm, Friday, March 21, with a rosary prayed at 6:30pm, at Brennan-Mathena Funeral Home.

Marlene's family will honor her remarkable life with a Memorial Mass of Christian Burial celebrated at Most Pure Heart of Mary Church on March 22nd at 10am, followed by inurnment at Mount Calvary Cemetery in Topeka.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Elara Caring Hospice or the Topeka Public Library, sent in care of Brennan-Mathena Funeral Home, 800 West 6th Avenue, Topeka, Kansas.

Arensberg Pruett Funeral Home

Donna Lee Gibson Cummings Slavens

(June 5, 1939 - February 19, 2025)

Donna Lee Gibson Cummings Slavens, 85, Valley Falls, Kansas died February 19, 2025 at Village Villa Nursing Center, Nortonville, Kansas.

Funeral services will be Wednesday, February 26, 2025 at 11:00 A.M. in the chapel of Arensberg-Pruett Funeral Home with Rev. Meinrad Miller, OSB officiating. Visitation with the family will be for one hour prior to services at the funeral home. Mrs. Slavens will be cremated following the services with burial of the cremated remains at a later date in St. Joseph's Catholic Cemetery in Nortonville, Kansas.

Donna was born June 5, 1939 in Axtell, Kansas the daughter of Paul and Gladys Parli Gibson. She attended school in Winchester, Kansas.

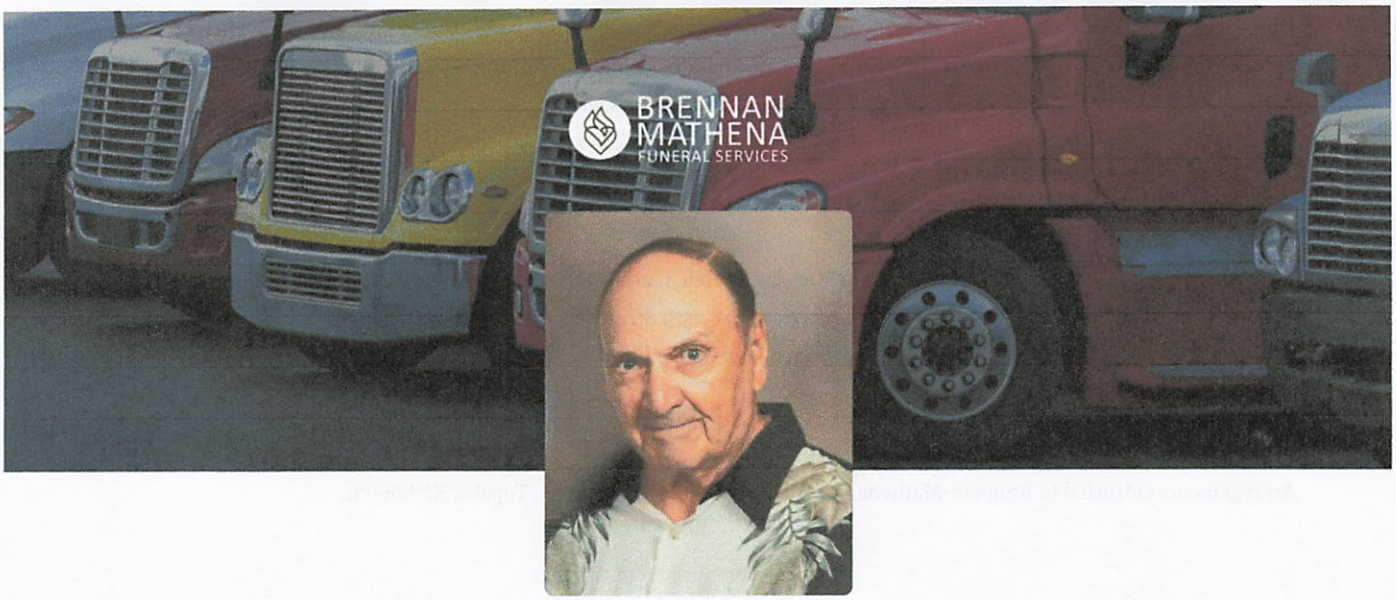
She and Leo Dean Cummings were united in marriage and later divorced. She then united in marriage to Paul Slavens in 1987 in Oskaloosa, Kansas. Mr. Slavens preceded her in death.

Donna worked at Hallmark Cards in Lawrence, Kansas and later served as a cook at restaurants and nursing homes in Nortonville and Lawrence. She also served as a cook for Hyvee.

In her spare time she enjoyed sewing, drawing, and working word search puzzles.

Survivors include three sons, Dennis Cummings, Valley Falls, KS, Randall Cummings, Minneapolis, MN, Patrick Cummings, Oskaloosa, KS, three daughters, Linda Gooch, Denison, KS, Peggy Parker, Olathe, KS, Nancy Botkin, Simpsonville, SC, fifteen grandchildren and twenty-eight great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Paul Slavens; two daughters, Dee Dee Cummings Rule and Joan Cummings Phillips; a brother, George Gibson, and three half-sisters.



1934 — *Don* — 2025

Donald I. Wietharn

June 21, 1934 — February 24, 2025
Topeka

Donald Ignatius Wietharn, age 90, of Topeka, Kansas, passed away peacefully with family at his home on February 24, 2025. Born June 21, 1934, to Edwin and Irmena (Rettle) Wietharn, Don was the third eldest of fourteen children born and raised on the Wietharn family farm near Baileyville, Kansas.

Don attended Sacred Heart Catholic Grade School in Baileyville, Kansas, until the eighth grade at which time he needed to help on the family farm. He served in the United States Army from 1955 to 1957. Don married Alice Marie Heinen at St. Bede's Catholic Church in Kelly, Kansas, on September 17, 1957. They were blessed with 67 years of marriage.

Don and Alice lived in Topeka, Kansas, for the first year of marriage and then moved to a farm near Axtell, Kansas, from 1958 to 1961. They moved back to Topeka where Don worked for Goodyear from 1961 to 1964. Don then purchased his first truck and commenced hauling aggregate materials which began a successful fifty-year trucking career complete with mischief and a few misdemeanors. He especially enjoyed hauling asphalt, taking pride in all the highways he helped construct. During his trucking career, the family was based in Topeka, Kansas; Lincoln, Kansas; and finally, the family farm near Baileyville, Kansas, where Don also grew milo, wheat, and soybeans. In the spring of 1988, Don and Alice sold the farm and made their home in Seneca, Kansas until 1992 when they returned to Topeka. At the time of his retirement at the age of 79, Don was driving part time for Native Stone delivering landscaping rock to the Kansas City area. Don was a member of Christ the King Parish and the Knights of Columbus Council #8411. He enjoyed his grandchildren, great-grandchildren, golfing and bike riding especially with his brother, Marion.

Don is survived by his wife, Alice; children, Michael Wietharn, Columbia, Missouri; Douglas Wietharn (Mary) St. Marys, Kansas; Jacqueline Siess, Tecumseh, Kansas; twins Tamera Steinlage (Steve) Goff, Kansas, and Timothy Wietharn (Shauna) Topeka, Kansas; and Chris Wietharn, Gladstone, Missouri; seventeen grandchildren and thirteen great-grandchildren; siblings, Phyllis Burger, Dee Heideman, Bill Wietharn (Kay), Jane Niehaus (Frank), Gerri Lierz, Lynn

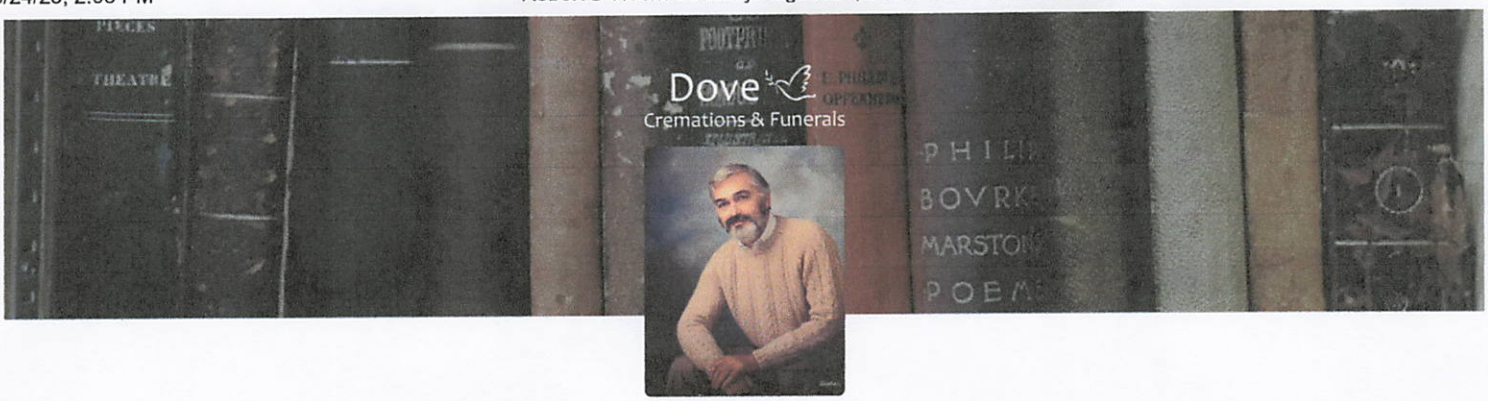
Wietharn (Ruth), Keith Wietharn (Judy), Sue Wassenburg (Bob), Darlene Slattery (Jerry) and Max Wietharn. He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers Galen, Marion and Albert; infant great-grandchildren Blayke Farrell and Theo Baker; and brothers-in-law, Kenny Burger, Lee Heideman, and Robert Lierz.

Don will lie in state from 5-7:00 P.M., on Monday, March 3, 2025, with a Knights of Columbus Council #8411 rosary being prayed at 6:00 P.M.

A parish rosary will be prayed at 10:00 A.M., on Tuesday, March 4, 2025, followed by a Mass of Christian Burial being celebrated at 10:30 A.M., at Christ the King Church, 5973 SW 25th Street, Topeka, KS 66614, and will be live streamed on the funeral home Facebook page. Interment will be at a later date in St. Bede's Catholic Church Cemetery, Kelly, Kansas.

To share a memory or to leave condolences, please visit, www.brennanmathenafh.com.

Arrangements entrusted to Brennan-Mathena Funeral Home, 800 SW 6th Ave., Topeka, KS 66603.



1934 — Robert — 2025

Robert D Hecht

October 17, 1934 — August 21, 2025
Topeka

Listen to Obituary

Robert D. Hecht (Bob) of Topeka, Kansas, youngest child of Jesse and Flossie Hecht, passed away on August 21, 2025, at the age of 90 years. He was born October 17, 1934, in the same farm house as his father was born in 1893 and his grandfather in 1861 in Nemaha County, Kansas homesteaded by his great-grandfather. Bob's family moved to Topeka when he was two and he was raised in the Oakland area attending Oakland Elementary, Holiday Jr. High and graduating Topeka High in 1952. He attended Washburn University graduating with a B.B.A. degree and Washburn Law School graduating with a Juris Doctorate in January, 1958, accomplishing both degrees in 5 ½ years.

Following law school Bob served in the U.S. Air Force as Assistant Staff Judge Advocate, 37th Air Division; Staff Judge Advocate, Bangor Air Defense Sector; and later as Assistant Staff Judge Advocate, 30th Air Division (SAGE). As a Judge Advocate he was counsel to General William Wise and Major General James Jensen and litigated cases from AWOL to Homicide and was involved in a number of unusual claims and personnel actions involving high ranking officers. He spent a great amount of time on temporary duty involving matters throughout Canada, Northeast quarter of the United States and elsewhere.

Bob was proud that he had worked the farm fields of Shawnee County as a small child and was given his first steady, part time job at age 12 by A.J. Warner in his neighborhood grocery store. From that time until he retired at age 74, he was unemployed only one week before and one week after military service. Prior to graduating law school and entering the military he was employed at Kansas Motor Vehicle, nights at the Topeka State Journal, Fleming Food Warehouse, Goodyear Tire and Rubber, worked at KPL and Kansas Highway Commission. Such employment allowed him to obtain his education, graduating with no debt.

After military service in 1958-1961 he practiced law in Shawnee County, served as an Assistant County Attorney and was elected two terms as Shawnee County Attorney, as a partner in the firm of Gray, Freidberg and Davis and then as a founding partner at Scott, Quinlan & Hecht where he practiced from 1969 until January, 2001 when he was elected and served two terms as District Attorney until 2009.

During his practice Bob was involved in a number of high-profile cases, some of which were reported as far away as Cairo, Egypt and Tokyo, Japan and was reported on national news television channels, Time Magazine, published books and a television movie. He represented a State Senate President, a sitting Governor, City Commissioners of both Topeka and Kansas City. He prosecuted and secured the first death penalty verdict in Shawnee County Court in the history of Kansas for the kidnap and murder of a little girl in 1965 and later, as District Attorney, his office secured the second such verdict for multiple murders. He was engaged in representing numerous school districts in a number of matters including ending a teacher strike and civil rights cases and the removal from office of public officials for violation of law and the conviction of a sitting District Court Judge of felony crimes. He got his most professional satisfaction from handling the adoption of children and protecting women and children.

Bob married Faye Wilson of Newport News, Virginia, who he met while he was stationed at Truax Field, Wisconsin in 1961. To such marriage were born two daughters, Lisa Fay and Julia Paige; grandchildren, Jordan (Nick Gitto) Carter, Alex Carter, and great grandchild, Charlotte Gitto.

Bob and Faye divorced in 1986, but remained good and supportive friends sharing good times, difficult times and family times together over the years. Faye was his devoted caregiver in the last three years.

Although generally retired, Bob continued to provide professional assistance to some clients, mentor law students and young lawyers. During his professional life he was a member of the Topeka, Kansas and American Bar Associations and served on numerous professional ethics and advisory committees, the Judicature Society, Sam A. Crow Inn of Courts, Kansas Trial Lawyers Association where he served as a Vice President of Education, American Trial Lawyers Association, National and Kansas District Attorney Association and acted as an Adjunct Professor at the Washburn School of Law on a number of occasions as well as lecturing on criminal law and procedures, school and employment law for various professional groups.

Bob's last wishes were that family, friends and associates would enjoy together their memories and be supportive of Faye, his daughters, grandchildren and great grandchild and each other to help make Topeka a better community for all. Bob's family were of paramount importance to him.

Bob was predeceased by his parents, sisters, Gladys, Lola and brother Bill Hecht.

Angels Above Cremation Services

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Cheryl Louise (Lierz) McNish

Obituaries / 10 February 2025

Cheryl Louise (Lierz) McNish, 77 passed away peacefully on February 5th, 2025 surrounded by her loving husband. Cheryl was born January 8th, 1948 to Ralph and Marion Lierz in Axtel KS. She graduated from Topeka West High School in 1966 and worked as a beautician and a medical professional.

She married Robert "Bob" Wayne McNish February 10th, 1977 in Topeka, KS, They had 2 children Sarah (McNish) McBurney who was born in 1979 and Scott McNish (born in 1978). Cheryl was a devoted and loving wife, Mom and Grandma and loved to attend church, and spend time with her grandchildren.

Cheryl was preceded in death by her Parents, and Brother-in-law Tony Garcia, She is survived by her husband "Bob", sisters Nancy Garcia and Donna Colboch, her children Sarah and Scott (Amanda) her grandchildren Hannah, Rosie, Teresa, Shelby, Cheyenne, and Corrine, great grandchildren Azariah and Awndreous and several other family and friends.

The family will host a light luncheon and Celebration of Life service for Cheryl on Saturday February 15th 2025 from 1-3 PM at Lighthouse Bible Church 4110 NW 62nd St Suite B Topeka KS 66618.

Read Prayers and Memory's for "Cheryl Louise (Lierz) McNish"

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Billy E. Ott

October 28, 1938 - August 20, 2025

Billy E. Ott aged 86, passed away on August 20, 2025. He was born in Sabetha, Kansas on October 28, 1938.

He is survived by Betty, his wife of 62 years. His sons Bradley and Brent preceded him in death. Daughter Rebecca Foth. Grandsons Justin (Taylor) Ryder and Brayden. Brandon (Ashley) Vivienne, Sutton, Ronnie & Parker.

He graduated from Fairview High School in 1957. He went on to work for the Kansas Power and Light Company. He retired after 43 years with them.

He was a member of the Kansas National Guard.

He was an avid golfer, and enjoyed playing on many different golf courses around the country. His favorite golfing was done on the courses in Arizona, during the winter months. He enjoyed watching KU basketball and Chiefs football.

He always loved giving a helping hand to anyone in need. He would be the first to say 'let me help you with that'. He also loved being the first to play a prank on his fellow co-workers. Billy spent thousands of hours volunteering at various agencies in the Topeka area.

He will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

Mass of Christian burial will be at 10am on Saturday, September 6, 2025, at Christ the King Catholic Church.

Memorial contributions can be made to:

Midland Hospice House

200 SW Frazier Circle

Topeka, Kansas 66606

Christ the King Catholic Church

5973 SW 25th St.

Topeka, Kansas 66614

Mercer Funeral Home

Susan J. Beecham

(June 9, 1979 - July 23, 2025)

Susan J. Beecham, 46, of Mayetta, KS, passed away Wednesday, July 23, 2025 unexpectedly at her home. She was born June 9, 1979 in Emporia, KS, the daughter of Robert L. Skidmore and Donna June (Kautz) Foye.

Susan lived most of her life in the Mayetta, Denison, Goff and Holton communities. She worked as the Housekeeping Supervisor at Prairie Band Casino for 17 years and previously she worked for Koch and Cabinet Company in Seneca for over 8 years.

She was a member of the First Baptist Church in Holton. She was a member of the "Struttin' Roosters", BBQ Smoking Competition Team. Susan enjoyed riding motorcycles, fishing, gardening, hunting, cutting wood, camping and going to concerts.

Survivors include her children, Matthew Skidmore of Moberly, MO, Kinsey Beecham of Mayetta, KS and Jaxson Diehl of Seneca, KS; sisters, Jennifer Bontrager (Scott Fredrickson) of Holton, KS and Bobbi Havenstein of Manhattan, KS; grandson, Michael Skidmore; grandmother, Donna Hannigan of Osage City, KS; her best friend Rose (Todd) Stauffer of Mayetta, KS; nieces, Autumn, Jordynn, Lilli, Nora and Clara; great nieces, Tarynn and Adalynn; and great nephews, Kyler, Rhett and Reece.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brother, Patrick Skidmore and fiancé, Ryan Diehl.

Funeral Service will be 6:00 p.m. Friday, August 1, 2025 at the Mercer Funeral Home in Holton. Family will greet friends beginning at 4: 00 p.m. until service time. Private family inurnment will be at a later date. Memorials may be given to Mercer Funeral Home (to help with expenses) and sent to P.O. Box 270, Holton, KS 66436.

Provided by Dorr & Clark Funeral Home

Ruby Boyd

July 9, 2025

Ruby Boyd, 91, of Falls City, NE, passed away July 9, 2025 at Falls City. She was born June 27, 1934 at Peru, NE to

Charles and Nellie (Cooper) Tishner

She married Veron Boyd on March 12, 1954 at Nebraska City, NE. He passed away June 12, 1996

Ruby was raised at Peru and attended Peru Public Schools. Following her schooling, she worked for Campbell Soup in Tecumseh and when married the couple lived in rural Humboldt where she was a homemaker and farm wife and helped the Philips Brothers farm. They then moved to Loveland, CO and to Falls City in 1981. She worked for Camp Rulo and Ye Old Time Saloon and has lived in Falls City since.

Ruby is survived by her children, Johnny Boyd of Newark, OH, Wanda Parrish of Sabetha, KS, nine grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband, son, Lonnie, granddaughter, Alisha Miller, brothers, George, John and Paul, sisters, Mary Warner, Ritta Williams and Opal Davis

A graveside service will be held on Thursday, July 17, 2025 at 10:00 AM at Rulo Cemetery with Pastor Tim Boatright officiating.

Ruby has been cremated, no viewing or visitation.

Services

Graveside Service
Thursday
July 17, 2025
10:00 AM
Rulo Cemetery
Hwy 159 and Richardson County Rd
Rulo, NE 68431

Tammy L. Gartner Bauerle Campbell

September 20, 1966 - June 20, 2025

It is with great sadness to announce the passing of Tammy L. Gartner Bauerle Campbell on Friday, June 20, 2025, at her home.

Tammy was born on September 20, 1966, in Axtell, Kansas to Ray and Sue Chandler Gartner. She grew up in Oneida and Bern, Kansas. She graduated from Bern High School. Tammy then went to Vo-Tech in Topeka and received her certificate in Child Care. She worked at Menninger Child Care, First Christian, VA Child Care and Christ the King Preschool.

Tammy married David Bauerle on April 11, 1993 and he preceded her in death in 2019. She found a second love in Tony Campbell and they were married on September 14, 2024 and he survives.

Tammy's hobbies included baking, shopping, motorcycle riding and visiting family and many friends. She loved to collect angels, penguins and nutcrackers. Tammy was part of the September 3 Musketeers – Tammy, Dee Grimes and the late Dawn Feldkamp; high school friends.

Tammy also loved to get her Sonic Happy Hour Vanilla Root Beer.

Tammy is survived by her husband, Tony Campbell of the home; sister, Cindy DuBois, Topeka; brother-in-law, William Lowe, Hiawatha KS; sister-in-law, Teresa Gartner, Horton KS; step-children, Megan DeSpain (Brian), Baker FL, Dexter, Peter and Paige Campbell, Hiawatha; mothers-in-law, Jean Bauerle, Osage City KS, and Carol Jones, Hiawatha; fathers-in-law, Frank Campbell (Vickie), Portland OR, and Wayne Jones, Hiawatha; several nieces and nephews; and her class at Christ the King Preschool.

She was preceded in death by her husband, David Bauerle; parents; brothers, Steve, Kent, Dan, Terry and Chris Gartner; sister, Janice Lowe; brother-in-law, Don Du Bois; and father-in-law, Larry Bauerle.

Cemetery

CUMMINGS CEMETERY

2534 McPherson Rd,
CUMMINGS, KS
66016

Events

26
Jun

VISITATION
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Becker - Dyer -
Stanton Funeral Home
800 Kansas Ave.,
Atchison, KS 66002

Visitation will be 5 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, June 24, 2025, at Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614. Funeral service will be at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, June 25, 2025, at the funeral home. Cremation will follow her service.

Memorial contributions may be made to Christ the King Preschool and sent in care of the funeral home.

Condolences may be sent online to www.kevinbrennanfamily.com.

Tribute Wall

A

A Memorial Tree was planted for Deanne E Olson

We are deeply sorry for your loss ~ Becker - Dyer - Stanton Funeral Home

Arensberg Pruett Funeral Home

Sr. Esther Fangman, OSB

(April 23, 1945 - August 11, 2025)

Sister Esther Fangman, OSB, 80, a Benedictine sister of Mount St. Scholastica, Atchison, Kansas, died on Monday, August 11, 2025, at the monastery after a brief illness. The vigil service will be Friday, August 22, at 7 p.m. in the monastery chapel, and the Mass of Resurrection will be celebrated there Saturday, August 23, at 10:30 a.m.

Sister Esther was born in Axtell, Kansas on April 23, 1945, to Paul and Florence Stallbaumer Fangman, who farmed in the rural Seneca, Kansas, area. In 1963, she entered the Benedictine community and served as an elementary teacher in Kansas City, Mo., Kansas City, Kan., and Beatrice, Neb. She earned her bachelor's degree in English from Mount St. Scholastica College, and then her M.S. in education (School Psychologist Program) from the University of Dayton and her Ed.D. in counseling from Idaho State University.

She was director of the counseling program at St. Charles Borromeo parish in Kansas City, Mo., 1982-93, as well as a consultant and counselor for the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph. Sister Esther also had a private counseling practice in Kansas City. In 1998, she was elected president of the Monastic Congregation of St. Scholastica, a mutual support organization of women's monasteries throughout the U.S. and Mexico. During the twelve years of her three successive terms, she was of assistance to Benedictine women not only in her congregation, but also around the world. In 2017, she was elected prioress of the Mount St. Scholastica community and served a six-year term, leaving office in 2023. She was a mentor, role model and counselor to many, particularly in her challenging work with victims of addiction, sexual abuse and trauma.

She was preceded in death by her parents, brothers Charles, Gilbert and Leonard Fangman and her sister Ruth Haug. She is survived by brothers Lester (Janet), Elmer, and John (Fran), sister Janie Werner, numerous nieces and nephews, and her monastic community.

Arensberg Pruett Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements. Memorials may be sent to Mount St. Scholastica or made online at the Mount's web site Donate - Mount St. Scholastica

(785) 249-6815

Midwest Cremation

OBITUARIES SERVICES PAYMENT CENTER PREPLAN RESOURCES ABOUT CONTACT

Sign In

Official Obituary of

Ryan Michael Fidler

February 24, 1984 - December 14, 2024

2 Trees or Condolences have been sent in support of Ryan's family – View on Tribute Wall

2 New Pos

Share a memory

Obituary & Events **Tribute Wall**

Ryan Michael Fidler Obituary

In Loving Memory of Ryan Michael Fidler
February 24, 1984 - December 14, 2024

With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Ryan Michael Fidler, 40, of Topeka, Kansas.

Ryan was a bold spirit, known for his deep love of fishing, muddy adventures, and his proud redneck heart.
A graduate of Junction City High School, he was also a fearless tree climber, a loyal friend, and someone who could always make you laugh.

He is survived by his two daughters, Brianna of Junction City and Alexis of Harveyville; his brothers, Kevin of Seneca and Devin of Axtell; three nephews, one niece, and countless friends. He was preceded in death by his father and one brother, both of whom he deeply missed.

Ryan lived life his own way--wild, free, and full of heart--and his memory will forever live on in the lives he touched.

Celebration of Life
July 12, 2025
6:00 PM - 10:00 PM
Lake Shawnee, Shelter House #2 - Topeka, Kansas

All are welcome to come share stories, laughter, and love in honor of Ryan.

In lieu of flowers, take a moment to enjoy the outdoors, cast a line, or climb a tree--just as Ryan would have wanted.

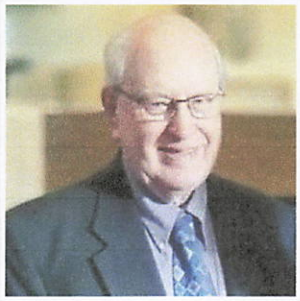
In Loving Memory of Ryan Michael Fidler
Rest easy, Ryan. You will be forever missed and never forgotten.

To plant a beautiful memorial tree in memory of Ryan, please visit our Tree Store.

Hide ^

Events

Share a memory Plant a Tree



Gerald "Jerry" Heinen

November 20, 1937 - May 2, 2025

Gerald “Jerry” Bernard Heinen, 87, passed away peacefully in the arms of his daughters, Brenda Sweezey and Tammy Koch, on Friday, May 2, 2025.

Jerry was born on November 20, 1937, in Seneca, Kansas, and graduated from St. Peter and Paul Catholic School in 1955. In 1956, he began his service in the United States Navy aboard the USS Gregory, serving in regions from Pearl Harbor to the waters off China and Japan. After his Honorable Discharge in 1962, Jerry dedicated over 40 years to the Kansas Department of Transportation as an engineer, where he played a significant role in shaping Kansas’s highway design and infrastructure.

In retirement, Jerry continued to enjoy watching K-State athletics, pursued his passion for woodworking, and was a constant and proud presence at his grandchildren’s sporting events and activities.

On November 24, 1959, Jerry married the love of his life, Janice “Jan” Sunneberg. They shared an inspiring 65 years of marriage. He leaves behind his beloved wife Jan and their daughters Brenda Sweezey (Mark) and Tammy Koch (Jeff).

Jerry was a devoted grandfather to Tyler Sweezey (Lindsey), Kyle Koch (Kaleigh), Dalton Sweezey, and Isaac Koch (Jenna), and a cherished great-grandfather to Dalton “DJ” Sweezey Jr., Raylynn Sweezey, Aurelia Sweezey, and a future baby Sweezey expected soon.

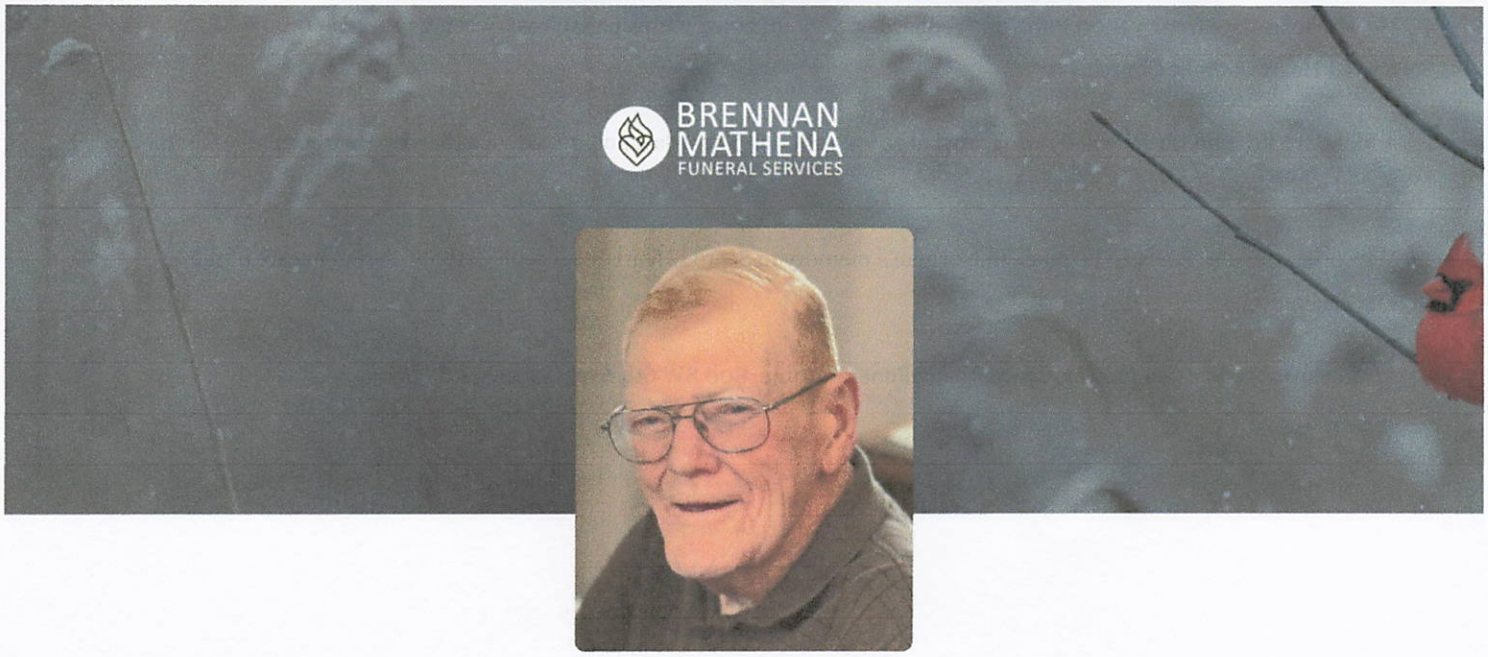
He was preceded in death by his parents, Joe and Aurelia Heinen. He is survived by his sisters, Karen Rilinger (Paul - deceased), and Marilyn Evans (Gary); and many loving nieces and nephews.
Jerry’s legacy of love, hard work, and family devotion will live on through all who knew and loved him.

Visitation will be at 10 a.m. Rosary at 10:30 a.m. and Mass of Chirstian Burial to follow at

11 a.m. Saturday, May 10, 2025, at Christ the King Catholic Church, 5973 SW 25th St. Topeka KS 66614. Burial will follow at Mount Calvary Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to Parkinson's Foundation, in care of Kevin Brennan Family Funeral Home, 2801 SW Urish Road, Topeka KS 66614.

Condolences may be sent online at www.kevinbrennanfamily.com



1941 — Norman — 2025

Norman L. Hogan

August 14, 1941 — July 10, 2025
Topeka

Norman L. Hogan, age 83, of Topeka, KS, passed away on Thursday, July 10, 2025, at Stormont Vail Hospital.

He was born the son of John P. and Leta J. (Breeding) Hogan on August 14, 1941, in Home, KS. On October 14, 1961, Norman married his beloved sweetheart, Marcia J. Stattelman at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Topeka. Together, they shared 63 years of marriage.

Throughout Norman's working career, he excelled in the plumbing/pipefitting trade. He owned and operated EZ Clean Drain Service, and later he was sole proprietor of Standard Plumbing Company, both in Topeka. He retired from Goodyear Tire and Rubber Manufacturing plant as a pipefitter. He was proud to be a Local Union #441 (formerly #165) Plumbers and Pipefitters member for many years. Norman was a long time Knights of Columbus member of the North Topeka Council 2608.

Norman was a family man to the core as he cherished raising his kids and attending his grandchildren's events. In his early years, Norman, Marcia, and the kids spent most weekends camping and spending time with other families at local area lakes. Later in life, he and Marcia loved to take family cruises, and their favorite trip was to Rome. Norman spent time cheering on his favorite teams, the KC Chiefs, Royals, KU Jayhawks and K-State Wildcats. He was the happiest when he was surrounded by his loving family.

Survivors include his wife, Marcia Hogan; two sons, Curtis Hogan and his wife Carrie, Kevin Hogan and his wife Mechelle; two daughters, Brenda Beck and her husband Mark, Cindy Bigenwalt and her husband Brian; as well as 10 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren and one on the way. He is also survived by his sister, Rosalie Johnson.

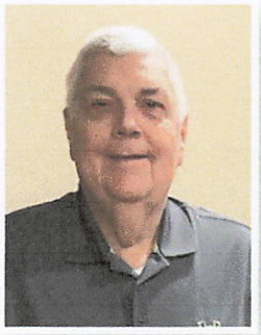
Norman was preceded in death by his parents; and eight siblings and their spouses.

He will lie in state from 5-8:00 P.M., on Wednesday, July 16, 2025, with a parish rosary being prayed at 6:00 P.M., at Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 A.M., on Thursday, July 17, 2025, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Burial will follow at Mt. Calvary Cemetery.

Memorial contributions can be made in Norman's memory to Sacred Heart-St. Joseph Catholic Parish in care of the funeral home.

Arrangements entrusted to Brennan-Mathena Funeral Home, 800 SW 6th Ave., Topeka, KS 66603.



Richard "Dick" Alan Koehne

May 08, 1951 - June 23, 2025

Richard "Dick" Alan Koehne, age 74, of Seneca, Kansas, formerly of Pekin, Illinois, passed away on June 23, 2025, at Stormont Vail Hospital in Topeka, Kansas.

He was born on May 8, 1951, in Peoria, Illinois, to Richard and Mary Koehne. Dick attended St. Joseph Elementary and Middle School in Pekin and graduated from Pekin Community High School in 1969.

On November 20, 1971, he married Margaret Walker of Mapleton, Illinois. She survives. Also surviving are their daughter, Tiffany (Jeff) of Bern, Kansas, and four grandchildren: Blake, Chase, Graham, and Brooklyn. He is also survived by two brothers, Dan (Nancy) of Kansas and David (Yvonne) of Illinois; and two sisters, Mary (Terry) Gahagan of Iowa and Julie (Rick) of Colorado.

He was preceded in death by his son, Troy, and two brothers, Jack and Bob Koehne.

Dick had a lifelong love of sports and was an avid fan of the St. Louis Cardinals, Illinois Fighting Illini basketball, and Nemaha Central High School football and basketball.

Throughout his life, Dick held various jobs, from owning a carpet cleaning business to working many years in pest control. Most recently, he worked at the Nemaha County Training Center, where he found great joy in the relationships he built with the Consumers.

In keeping with Dick's wishes, no funeral or public memorial service will be held. A private remembrance will be planned at a later date.

Mercer Funeral Home

Darrel G. Meyer

(November 11, 1951 - August 6, 2025)

Darrel Gene Meyer, 73, of Mayetta, Kansas, passed away peacefully on August 6, 2025. Born on November 11, 1951, in Sabetha, Kansas, Darrel was the beloved son of Walter Meyer and Estelle (Honeyman) Meyer.

Darrel spent his early childhood in the Fidelity, Kansas community before moving to Holton at the age of five. He graduated from Holton High School in 1969 and went on to build a life rooted in hard work, family, and community.

On June 26, 1976, Darrel married the love of his life, Cynthia Brucken. They built a home in Mayetta, KS in 1977 where together they raised two children, Jessica Meyer of Mayetta, KS, and Blake Meyer (Sara) of Holton, KS. He was a proud and devoted father and grandfather to Brody and Marisa Meyer, both of Holton.

Darrel dedicated 45 years of his career to Morton Buildings, beginning in 1971 as a Crewman and rising to the role of Sales Manager. His work allowed him to connect with customers across Northeast Kansas and travel the world alongside friends and colleagues.

A lifelong sports enthusiast, Darrel was both a player and a coach. He played fast pitch, slow pitch softball, and baseball for many years and took great joy in coaching his children's teams. He was also a member of the Holton Country Club, where he enjoyed golf and card games—especially cribbage, where he once held a perfect hand.

Darrel faced a 25-year battle with Multiple Sclerosis and longer battle with chronic back pain with unwavering strength and grace. Despite the daily challenges, he never complained and always greeted others with a smile. His resilience and positive spirit were an inspiration to all who knew him.

He is survived by his loving wife, children, grandchildren, and siblings: Judy McGrath (James), Betty Sahagun (John), Linda Arnold (Richard), Jim Meyer (Colleen), Sally Frey, Connie Sterbenz (Doug) and many nieces and nephews.

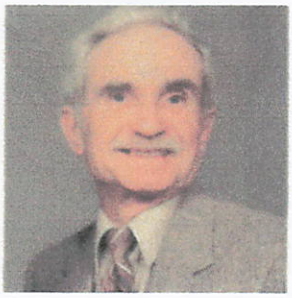
He was preceded in death by his mother, Estelle Meyer; father and step-mother, Walter and Alvina Meyer and brother-in-law, Dan Frey.

Darrel's legacy of kindness, perseverance, and love will live on in the hearts of his family and friends.

Mass of Christian Burial will be 10:30 a.m. Monday, August 11, 2025 at St. Dominic Catholic Church. Family will greet friends Sunday, August 10, 2025 from 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. followed by a Rosary at 3:00 at the Mercer Funeral Home in Holton. Memorials may be given to the Multiple Sclerosis Society or Beck Bookman Library c/o Mercer Funeral Home, P.O. Box 270, Holton, KS 66436.

Olliff-Boeve Memorial Chapel

James L. Ohlsen



(December 21, 1930 - January 10, 2023)

James L. Ohlsen, 92, long time resident of Norton and businessman passed away January 10, 2023 at his home after a short time illness.

James "Jim" was born December 21, 1930 in Whiting, KS the son of Fred and Ruby (Richelsen) Ohlsen. He grew up there and graduated from Whiting High School in 1950.

Jim farmed with his dad and brother Bill. He also helped his Dad in the grocery store that his Dad owned.

After selling the farm and grocery store the family moved to Seneca, KS where they built and managed Ohlsen's Frontier Station and Café. In 1963, Jim and Bill moved to Norton where their Dad helped them build another Ohlsen's Frontier Station and Café.

On February 7, 1965 Jim married the love of his life, Reges Lorance. They were married 57 years.

In 1967, Bill and family moved back to Seneca. Jim and Reges took over and managed the business until January of 1978 when they sold out.

Jim and family moved to Anoka, MN and in 1981 they moved back to Norton. Jim worked for KDOT. Upon retiring, Jim enjoyed working at home, having time with family, and repairing guns.

Jim was a member of the former Full Gospel Church in Norton.

Survivors are his wife, Reges of Norton; daughter Vicki of Rossville, KS; 2 sons Francis of Evansville, WY and Kirk of Woodston, KS; grandson Toby Ohlsen; great grandson Bentley Ohlsen; and one great granddaughter Peyton Ohlsen; along with brother-in-law Barry Lorance of Shallow Water, TX; and other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother Bill; brother Francis, who was lost in the line of duty with the Coast Guard in 1943; and sister Louise Bothe.

Cremation was planned. A private family service will be held at a later date. Olliff-Boeve Memorial Chapel, Phillipsburg, is in charge of arrangements.

Chapel Oaks Funeral Home Holton

Gail A. Schmitz

(December 3, 1956 - June 20, 2025)

Gail A. Schmitz, 68, of Holton, passed away on Friday, June 20, 2025 at her home.

She was born December 3, 1956 at Seneca, the daughter of George and Constance Engelken Hermesch. She attended Kelly Grade School and Graduated from Nemaha Valley High School in 1974. She received her Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Education from Emporia State University.

Gail had taught Kindergarten through 9th grades at Wetmore, Jackson Heights, Effingham and Oskaloosa.

Gail enjoyed sewing and quilting in her retirement. She made baptismal gowns, baby blankets, and quilts for all of her grandchildren. She enjoyed playing cards with friends and her favorite evenings were spent gathered around the table at the farm, playing games with her family. She made a point of being at events for her children and grandchildren. She spent her weekends making sure that her family knew that she supported them at sporting, church, and school events. Gail relied on her faith and was known for keeping St. Padre Pio's "Pray, hope, and don't worry!" in her kitchen as a reminder to place her worries with the Lord. She was a loving and giving wife, mother, daughter, sister, and friend, who always put others first. She will be missed by her many friends and her cherished family.

She was a member of St. Dominic Catholic Church in Holton, where she served as a Lector and a Eucharistic Minister. She was also a member of the Altar Society at the church and the Beck-Bookman Book Club.

She married David Schmitz on July 9, 1977 in St. Bede's Catholic Church at Kelly. He survives, of the home.

Gail was preceded in death by her parents, and a brother, Don Hermesch.

Other survivors include four sons, Mike Schmitz (Elizabeth), Shawnee, Daniel Schmitz (Delaney) and Andy Schmitz (Kyle), all of Wichita, and Chris Schmitz (Kayla), Overland Park, a daughter, Jennifer (Mike) Graveman, Tonganoxie, seven brothers, Dean Hermesch (Denise), Olpe, Joe Hermesch (Jennifer), Goff, Jerry Hermesch (Gail), Centralia, Leo Hermesch (Jennifer), Eureka, Leon Hermesch (Alice), Goff, Doug Hermesch (Marcia), Belvue and Greg Hermesch (Tisha), Seneca, three sisters, Kim Kreher (Tom), Smithton, IL, Pamela Hermesch, Shawnee and Christie Henry (Jason), Glendale, MO and twenty grandchildren.

Mass of Christian Burial will be 2:00 p.m. Tuesday, June 24th at St. Dominic Catholic Church in Holton. A visitation will be on Monday from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., at the church, with a Rosary prayed at 7:00 p.m. Burial will be in Mt. Calvary Cemetery at Holton. Gail will lie in state from Noon until 5:00 on Sunday at the Chapel Oaks Funeral Home in Holton. Memorials are suggested to Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas or the Beck-Bookman Library Building Fund, and may be sent in care of Chapel Oaks Funeral Home, PO Box 1034, Holton, KS 66436.

1955 — *Karen* — 2025

Karen Sue Slack

September 23, 1955 — June 29, 2025
Wamego, Kansas

We honor the remarkable life of Karen Sue Slack, who left us on June 29, 2025, at the age of 69.

She was born on September 23, 1955, in Seneca, Kansas. Karen was a beacon of warmth and kindness, qualities that defined her throughout her life. Her journey brought her to Wamego, Kansas, where she created a home filled with love, laughter, and open doors for anyone in need.

Karen's life was a testament to the beauty of generosity and the strength of a compassionate heart. As a devoted mother, grandmother, and friend, she nurtured those around her. She will be missed dearly.

Karen is preceded in death by her mother, Anna Mae Slack; father, Otto Slack; son-in-law, Rex White; and grandson, Skyler Havens. Karen is survived by; siblings twin sister Sharon Slack, brothers Randy Slack, and William Slack (Victoria Slack); her four children, Crystal Swanson (Justin Swanson), Janet Weeks (Jon Weeks), Brian Havens, and Christina White (Jay Duckworth); grandchildren Ashley Farmer (Matt Farmer), Harley Weeks (Braden Seamen), Jon Weeks, Michael Swanson (Cayla Connor), Cordell Swanson, Austin Swanson, Stacey Womack (Anthony Womack), Amber Malleck (Michael Malleck), Kellie White, Kaleb Havens, Jace Havens, Kiera Havens, and Kameron Havens. 16 great grandchildren and one on the way.

If roses grow in heaven,

Lord, please pick a bunch for me,

Place them in my Mother's arms

And tell her they're from me.

Tell her I love her and miss her,

And when she turns to smile,

Place a kiss upon her cheek

And hold her for a while.

Because remembering her is easy,

I do it every day,

But there's an ache within my heart

That will never go away.

Karen's family will greet visitors during a visitation held at Campanella & Stewart Funeral Home in Wamego, KS, on July 11, 2025, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. A Celebration of Life will be held at the funeral home on July 12, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. with Rev. Jol Klein officiating. Memorial contributions are suggested to Crystal Swanson to be used for medical costs incurred in Karen's last days. Checks may be made payable to Crystal Swanson and left in care of Campanella & Stewart Funeral Home, PO Box 48, Wamego, KS 66547.

Service Schedule

Past Services

Visitation

Friday, July 11, 2025
5:00 - 7:00 pm (Central time)
Add to Calendar

Campanella & Stewart Funeral Home
4370 Salzer Rd. P.O. Box 48, Wamego, KS 66547

Celebration of Life

Saturday, July 12, 2025
Starts at 2:00 pm (Central time)
Add to Calendar

Campanella & Stewart Funeral Home
4370 Salzer Rd. P.O. Box 48, Wamego, KS 66547

Mercer Funeral Home

Linda Steinbrink

(March 12, 1948 - July 20, 2025)

Linda (Achten) Steinbrink, 77 of Olathe, Kansas passed away on July 20, 2025 in Overland Park, Kansas. Linda was born March 12, 1948, in Sabetha, Kansas, to Harold Achten, Jr. and Callie (Fields) Achten. She grew up on a farm north of Wetmore in Granada, Kansas. She graduated from Wetmore High School in 1966. She continued her studies at Kansas State University, where she was honored to serve as a cheerleader and a member of Gamma Phi Beta sorority, graduating in 1970. Linda married Alan Steinbrink in 1969 during her senior year in college.

Survivors include her husband, Alan Steinbrink of the home; two daughters, Tara (Danny) Sibert and Penny Steinbrink of Overland Park; two grandchildren, Raegan and Landon Sibert; a sister, Bobbi (Achten) Tonsfeldt of Independence, Missouri; and a brother, Philip (Sheryl) Achten of Escondido, California.

Linda is preceded in death by her parents and a younger brother, Freddy. Linda taught school for many years in Texas and Shawnee, Kansas, retiring in 2013 from Maranatha Christian Academy.

Funeral Service will be 1:00 p.m. Friday, July 25, 2025 at the Mercer Funeral Home in Holton. Burial will follow at the Granada Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be given to the Wetmore American Legion Auxiliary or Alzheimer's Assoc. c/o Mercer Funeral Home, P.O. Box 270, Holton, KS 66436.

Mercer Funeral Home

Ruth P. Swart

(July 1, 1934 - May 26, 2025)

Ruth Priscilla (Smith) Swart was born July 1st 1934 in the Sabetha Hospital to Charles (Herb) and Hulda (Thieme) Smith. Ruth passed on Monday May 26th 2025.

Ruth was baptized and confirmed at St Paul's Lutheran Church in Fairview, KS. She attended Morning Star country school for 1st – 8th grades and graduated from Goff High School May 1952. After graduation, Ruth moved to Topeka with her dad while her mother and sisters remained in Goff for the 1952-53 school year. While in Topeka Ruth attended Clark Business School, worked at Nabisco and transferred church membership to St Paul's Lutheran Church. On April 24, 1955 she married Carl D Swart at St Paul's in Topeka. Following their marriage, the couple resided in rural Seneca in Nemaha County where they started a successful dairy and stock cattle farm. Ruth transferred her membership to First Lutheran Church in Sabetha, memberships included the Friendly Neighbor HDU, WWI social club, Working Women Investments and Lutheran Women Missionary League. She volunteered with the Red Cross Blood drives, Fairview (Goff) Cemetery Board and the Goff Alumni through the years.

Ruth and Carl enjoyed many trips, tours and cruises throughout the world! One in particular was a Zip Line in Belize when she was in her 80's "Watch out she's coming in HOT!" One of her favorite activities was writing letters and sending cards. The family is in hopes that the Post Office doesn't go out of business.

Ruth is survived by her husband, Carl of the home. They recently celebrated 70 years of marriage. To this union they were blessed with 4 children: Carlene (Herman) Jones, Berryton, KS; Marlene Geyser, Topeka, KS; James Martin (JM) (Jackie) Swart, Seneca, KS; Ilene (David) Enneking, Centralia, KS; 12 grandchildren: Philip (Paige) and Daniel Jones; Megan Geyser; Jason (Katie) Swart, Jamie (Logan) Hiltibrand, Jill (Craig) Nolte, and Jaci (Dane) Brinker; Nichole (Jason) Showman, Anthony (Kat) Enneking, Thomas (Molly) Enneking, Gerard (Amanda) Enneking, and Paul (Megan) Enneking and 19 great grandchildren. Ruth is also survived by her two 2 sisters, Liz Gilman and Jean Simmons both of Topeka.

Ruth requested cremation. Private family graveside service will be at a later date at Fairview Cemetery in Goff, KS.

Memorials may be made to the Fairview (Goff) Cemetery or First Lutheran Church of Sabetha, KS c/o Mercer Funeral Home, P.O. Box 270, Holton, KS 66436.

Mercer Funeral Home

Byron J Washington-Urbano

(February 6, 2009 - July 22, 2025)

Byron James Washington-Urbano, 16, of Holton, KS, passed away Tuesday, July 22, 2025. He was born February 6, 2009 in Tacoma, WA, the son of Stephen T. Urbano and Snovia (Washington) Kunkleman.

Byron was active as an incoming Junior at Holton High School. He participated in Jazz Band, International Band, football, basketball and track.

He loved to play to music and fish. He was a proud member of the Burger Gang.

He worked for Trails Café and in maintenance at Walmart both in Holton.

Byron had attended youth group at the First Baptist Church in Holton.

Survivors include his mother and step-father, Snovia and Darrell Kunkleman of the home; father, Stephen T. Urbano of Tacoma, WA; sister, Jazlynn Washington-Urbano of the home; brother Jakari Washington-Urbano both of the home; grandmother and grandfather, Naomi Gallisath and Timothy Washington of Holton, KS; uncle, Timothy Washington of Lee's Summit, MO and grandfather and grandmother, Marcelino, Jr. and Donna Urbano of Tacoma, WA; uncle, Marcelino Urbano, III of Tacoma, WA; aunt, Margaret Batista of Tacoma, WA and a host of extended family, cousins and friends.

Memorial Service will be 10:00 a.m. Friday, August 1, 2025 at the First Baptist Church in Holton with inurnment to follow at Holton Cemetery. Family will greet friends from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. Thursday, July 31, 2025 at the Mercer Funeral Home in Holton. Memorials may be given to Snovia Kunkleman (to help with expenses) c/o Mercer Funeral Home, P.O. Box 270, Holton, KS 66436.

Mercer Funeral Home

James R. Walrod

(December 20, 1935 - July 22, 2025)

James Robert Walrod, 89, of Mayetta, KS, a beloved father, grandfather and brother, softly walked into heaven on July 22nd, 2025 after a long life richly filled with kindness and service. He was the second son born on December 20th, 1935 of 5 children to Albert and Mable (Lunden) Walrod.

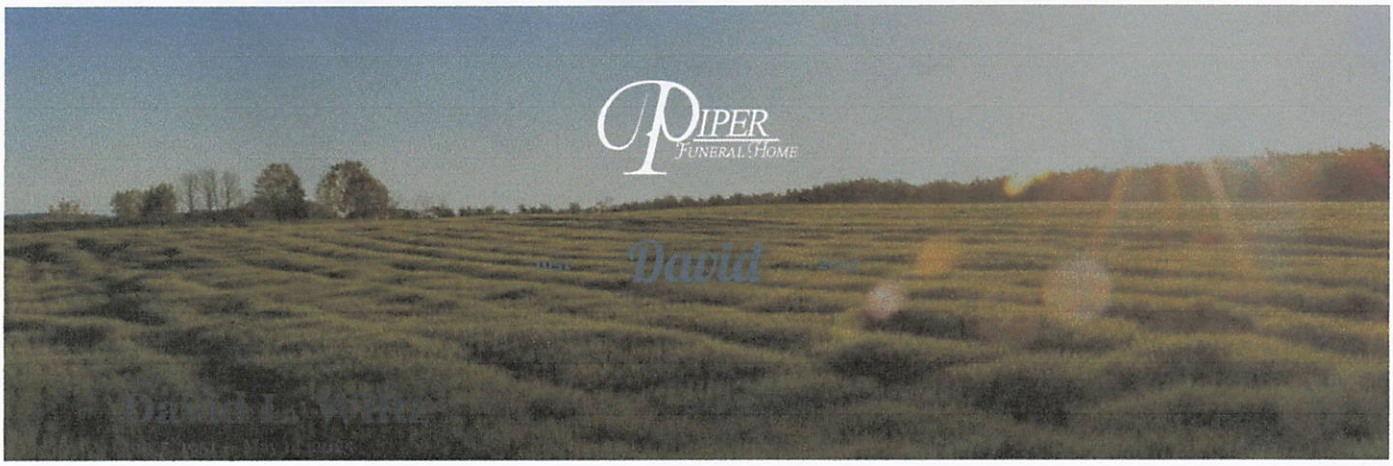
Jim attended South Cedar Country School through 8th grade. He graduated from Mayetta High school in 1953. He quickly found a job in Topeka and worked at Seymour Foods, Inc for 44 years. He married Sharon (Shaffer) Walrod on December 29, 1956, they later divorced.

They had one daughter, Debra (Walrod) Morgan together. Jim was very active in community affairs and served in many ways; Mayetta city council member, a Water Commissioner, board member of the Mayetta Christian Church, an Eagles Club member and a Mayetta Mustang 4-H Leader.

After retirement Jim co-owned and operated Walrod Brothers Antiques with his brother Donnie. He enjoyed chatting with customers, sharing stories, making those feel welcome and striking up a good deal. His genuine interest in people and vast knowledge of antiques made their store a special place frequented often. During Jim's free time you would likely find him spinning on a dance floor, winning at the casino or out deep in the timber taking care of his farm he loved so much.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents, brother John Walrod, infant granddaughter Melissa Morgan and niece, Dena Walrod LaBrecque. Survivors include daughter, Debra Morgan of Corning, KS; granddaughter, Maggie (Brent) Hunninghake; 4 great-grandsons, Kelton, Dempsey, Riggin and Knox all of Corning, KS., sister Vida Keyser of Silver Lake, brothers, Donnie Walrod and Roy (Joetta) Walrod of Mayetta, KS and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral Service will be 10:00 a.m. Monday, July 28, 2025 at the Mercer Funeral Home in Holton. Burial will follow at the Corning Cemetery. Family will greet friends 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Sunday afternoon at the funeral home. Memorials may be given to the Steinlage Walrod-Morgan Cancer Fund c/o Mercer Funeral Home, P.O. Box 270, Holton, KS 66436.



Born on July 5, 1951 in Axtell, Kansas, David was the oldest of Vincent and Maxine (Pat) Wiltz's 7 children. As a very young child, he lived in Sabetha, Kansas and Silver Lake, Kansas. The family moved to St. Marys in 1957 and David spent most of his life there. David attended Immaculate Conception Grade School and graduated from St. Marys High School in 1969.

He then enrolled in the Manhattan Area Vocational-Technical School where he completed a program in auto mechanics. David worked for many years as a mechanic at the St. Marys Farmers Union Coop and later opened his own auto mechanics business. David had many interests, from the high school rock band he played in to racing cars and teaching karate. He enjoyed camping and fishing and, most of all, singing karaoke, especially songs by Willie Nelson. He also loved animals, particularly cats, and always had at least one as a pet.

David was preceded in death by his parents, Vince and Pat, and his niece, Lily. He is survived by 5 brothers: Steve Wiltz, Wamego; Mike Wiltz, St. Marys; Dan Wiltz (Tammy), Topeka; Don Wiltz (Steve Luoma) Topeka, Doug Wiltz, Emmett; and one sister: Pat Stewart (George) Columbia, Missouri, plus many nieces and nephews.

A private inurnment will be held at a later date. Memorial contributions in honor of David and his love of cats may be made to Helping Hands Humane Society in Topeka.

Guestbook

Dave was a classmate of mine. Here are a couple of pics from our class of 1969 50th reunion. Rest on peace Dave.

BARB KOLDE LEEPER
May 20, 2025